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Iraq, Jordan discuss trade ties

AMMAN (AP) — Iraq and Jordan discussed commercial ties Wednesday amid Jordanian efforts to expand relations with its one-time key trading partner once U.N. sanctions are lifted. The Petra news agency said Trade and Industry Minister Ali Abul Ragheb met with his visiting Iraqi counterpart, Hussein Kamel, for 90 minutes. Petra said the talks "centred on bilateral relations, *especially in the economic and trade fields, as well as* Arab economic integration and joint Arab industries and the necessity to revitalise that sector." The agency gave no other details on the talks, which it said were attended by senior Jordanian Trade Ministry officials and Iraqi diplomats. It was not immediately clear if Mr. Kamel will meet other officials during his visit. He and Iraqi embassy officials were not immediately available for comment. Before the U.N. Security Council imposed the sweeping trade embargo on Iraq after the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, trade between Iraq and Jordan amounted to $700 million a year. Iraqi oil exports to Jordan accounted for more than half that.

Muasher meets Arab-Israeli delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's Ambassador to Israel Marwan Muasher on Wednesday received at the Jordanian embassy in Tel Aviv a delegation representing the Arabs of northern Israel and discussed the prospect of admitting Arab-Israeli students to Jordanian universities. Dr. Muasher and the delegation members also discussed issues related to the passage of Israeli Arab pilgrims *to Mecca and Medina through Jordanian territory*, and tourism. The delegation, headed by the chairman of the Abu Sinan and Kufr Yassin labourers' council, Najeeb Saad, voiced satisfaction over the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and expressed hope that a comprehensive peace would eventually prevail in the region. Following the meeting, Dr. Muasher said in a statement to Israel Television that the embassy was having a lot of contacts with Israeli Arabs, saying such meetings depict the enthusiasm with which peace between Jordan and Israel is received. He said the embassy seeks to build distinguished relations with the Israeli Arabs as well as other Israelis.

Traditional community leaders sweep municipal polls

Islamists fare badly; low turnout in Amman; leftist performance unclear

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Traditional community leaders emerged as the dominant force in the Kingdom's local administration in Tuesday's municipal elections with fragmented competition from the Islamists and a very poor turnout in the capital.

The first nationwide municipal elections also produced two women mayors, marking the first time women taking the helm of local administration in the history of the Kingdom.

Final results showed that Islamists won the mayorship of the councils of Madaba, Karak and Irbid, but lost in Zarqa and Aqaba.

According to source close to the Islamists, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party relied on tribal affiliations for success in most constituencies it fielded candidates. Except for Zarqa, Ruseifeh and Irbid, the party did not publicly release the names of its candidates.

The Islamists, who withdrew from Zarqa and Ruseifeh last night in protest against what they described as the "government's continuous interferences in the election procedures," boycotted the Lower House of Parliament's session on Wednesday.

In a statement sent to Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Srour, IAF deputies said their decision to boycott the session comes as a protest to the "*government's lack of respect to the people's representatives.*"

"There has been a series of violations on public liberties," Deputy Bassam Amoush said. "We will use all means possible to put an end to these malpractices."

Dr. Amoush said the House should shoulder the responsibility for what he described as the continuous violations of public liberties and human rights. He said Mr. Srour has to take a stand on this issue.

"Any deputy who want to meet with the government has all the right to do so," said Mr. Srour. "But the House's presidency is not the concerned party to make reconciliation between a deputy and the government."

He said the front's letter to the House was only aimed at informing the presidency of *the decision taken by the* 16-member bloc. But it did not include any demand for further action from the House.

The head of a delegation from the U.S. National Democratic Institute (NDI) Olga Milosavlegevic, who is currently in Jordan to observe the municipal elections, refrained from commenting on the election procedures. The nine-member delegation that she is leading will be issuing a report soon on the general situation of elections in the Kingdom, she said.

Ms. Milosavlegevic, NDI's programme officer for the

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Amman election results

Final results Wednesday evening showed that two IAF candidates lost and three won out of seven Islamist candidates for the 20 Amman seats.

The names of the new Amman council members are: Nidal Birjis Hadid, Abdul Rahim Biqa'i, Amjad Gharib Bakri, Ayyoub Khamis (IAF), Rateb Kouz, Khalaf Barayseh, Khalil Hussein Attiyeh, Musa Wahsh (IAF), Hassan Hamlan, Saleh Ghazawi (IAF), Mohammad Ruteimah, Khalil Habarneh, Azzam Maghariz, Uthman Shishani, Abdul Hamid Udwan, Mohammad Kawakneh, Omar Lawzi, Mohammad Abu Hudeib, Ahmad Falah Mleisi and Maloud Sobar.

Centrist bloc takes full control in Zarqa

By Beatrix Immenkamp
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — A centrist pro-establishment coalition swept Zarqa's municipal elections, ending a decade of Islamist control of Jordan's second largest city. The National Bloc took all of the council's 10 seats, including the mayorship.

The bloc won the election after its main competitor, the Islamic Bloc, withdrew from the polls in protest against alleged government interference in the elections.

The Islamic Bloc, which included five candidates running on the ticket of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), abandoned the elections three and a half hours before the closure of the ballot boxes claiming that the government had worked to boost its opponents.

The governor of Zarqa, Musleh Tarawneh, rejected the Islamic Bloc's move on grounds of illegality, with a governorate spokesman saying all votes were counted, and results showed that the National Bloc won twice as many votes as the Islamic Bloc.

The Islamic Bloc charged that thousands of soldiers clad in civilian clothes were brought to Zarqa to cast their votes in favour of the National Bloc, headed by Mustafa Fayad.

Islamists said that the soldiers were not residents of Zarqa, but of cities as far away as Irbid and Karak. Eyewitnesses told the Jordan Times they had noticed a large number of apparently illiterate young men asking election officials to fill in their ballot slips with the names of the candidates of the National Bloc.

Other IAF allegations included claims that individual voters had been allowed to cast more than one vote, that government officials were distributing ballot papers freely outside polling centres, without reference to voter lists. They also claimed that police had taken into custody 200 drivers of buses and cars who were found transporting Islamist supporters to the polling station. The vehicles impounded bore posters of Islamic Bloc candidates.

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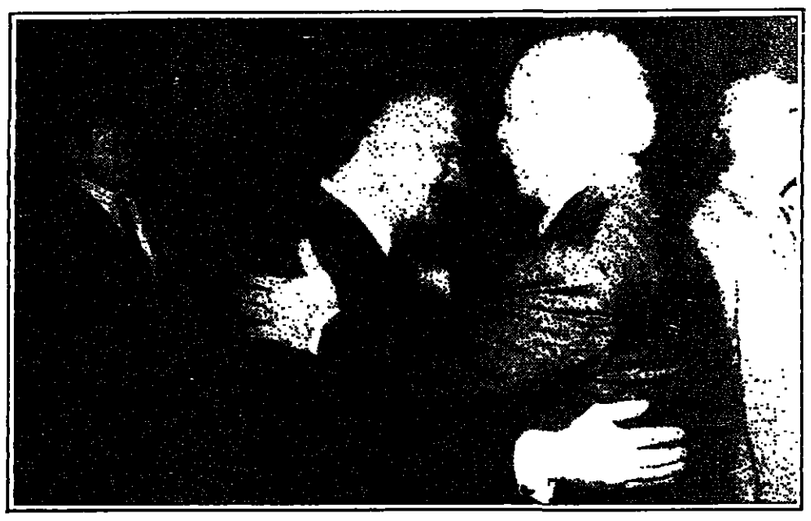

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are received upon their return home by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Abdullah and other members of the Royal family (Petra photo)

King returns home, meets Yemeni president here today

Monarch pays tribute to Jordanian-French ties

HM says newly elected councils will get full support

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home on Wednesday after an official visit to France, where the King held talks with President Jacques Chirac, and a private visit to Britain.

The King returned home a few hours before Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who is on a tour to brief Arab leaders on Saudi-Yemeni reconciliation and Sanaa's efforts for Arab solidarity, was to arrive here for talks with King Hussein on bilateral relations and issues of common interest as well as Arab issues.

In arrival comments, King Hussein referred to his visit to France and paid tribute to Jordanian-French relations. He described President Chirac as an old friend and one of the distinguished leaders of the world.

He said his meeting with Mr. Chirac was "very friendly," and that it offered a chance to "exchange ideas and views on various issues."

On the municipal elections, the King expressed hope that the newly elected councils would contribute to the development of the country.

"They have a major role in the development process," said the King. "God willing, they will get every needed support and backing from us and the government."

The King and Queen were received upon arrival by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Crown Prince Hassan, other members of the Royal family, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, speakers and members of Parliament, Cabinet ministers and other senior officials.

The main topics for the

(Continued on page 7)

U.N. probes Kuwait's deportation

KUWAIT (AP) — A U.N. agency is investigating the deportation of some 150 Iraqis who recently sought refuge on Kuwaiti islands, a U.N. official said Wednesday. Moustapha Omar, representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, told the Associated Press his organisation had been denied access to the Iraqis, who apparently had come by boat from Iran, their first country of asylum. The emirate's defence minister, Sheikh Ali Al Sabah, said Saturday the Iraqis, including women and children, were held on Failaka Island, 40 kilometres east of Kuwait City. They were given food and medicine before they were sent "back to where they came from," he said.

Beirut port and airport strike

BEIRUT (R) — Beirut port workers went on strike on Wednesday in a bid to force the government to go back on tax increases announced last week by Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri. Ground crews of Lebanon's national carrier Middle East Airlines (MEA) went on strike for an hour, causing 30-minute delays of two flights at Beirut airport, airport officials said. An official of the port workers' union said all work at the port, conduit for 70 per cent of Lebanon's trade, was paralysed by the one-day stoppage by some 20,000 port workers.

Israel arrests Gaza journalist

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli security forces detained a pro-Hamas Palestinian journalist as he entered the West Bank from Jordan, the army said Wednesday. Samir Hamatu, 28, who works for Arabic and Israeli newspapers from Gaza City, was arrested on the King Hussein Bridge on Monday.

Three dead in Yemen blast

ADEN (AFP) — Three people were killed in an explosion near this southern Yemeni port city on Wednesday as they tried to recover copper from a bomb left over from last year's civil war, Aden's security chief said.

PLO says secret talks held in Italy; Arafat sees August deal

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiators secretly met in Italy this week in a race to strike a deal by July 25 to extend self-rule on the West Bank, Palestinian Economy Minister Ahmad Qouria, said Wednesday.

The negotiations have now, returned to the Middle East and continued Wednesday, Mr. Qouriea, who took part in clandestine meetings in Oslo which produced the 1993 declaration of principles for autonomy.

"There sessions of negotiations have taken place in Italy in recent days; far from the media," he explained.

"We have decided to transfer the negotiations to this region to be near to Gaza and Jerusalem where the decision are made."

"The negotiations are going on in the region at moment," he said.

However, the minister refused to give any further details.

"We hope to reach an agreement by July 25 but we will not cry if we are a few days late," he added.

Israel's foreign ministry spokesman said he was checking Mr. Qouriea's statement, which he could neither confirm nor deny.

Israeli and Palestinian officials had announced that Mr. Qouriea and Uri Savir of Israel's foreign ministry, who have led the complex negotiations on the second phase of self-rule, would stage talks in Italy this week.

In Rome, the foreign ministry said it was pleased to host the meetings.

But then Israel and the PLO put up a smokescreen, saying the negotiations had been repeatedly delayed, for no apparent reason.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat denied any decision had been taken to go to Italy and Israel's foreign ministry even urged the Palestinians to make up their minds where they wanted to negotiate.

Israel and the PLO are already a year behind the schedule set out in the declaration of princples for army redeployment outside Palestinian population areas of the West Bank to allow elections to go ahead.

They have also failed to meet a July 1 target date they fixed in March.

The PLO is demanding precise dates for redeployment from all West Bank towns and villages before a vote.

Israel wants to keep troops in the flashpoint town of Hebron and parts of Ramallah and Bethlehem as well as maintain control over Arab villages until after the ballot.

The issues of whether Palestinians in East Jerusalem can stand as candidates in the elections, and the size of the self-rule council have also yet to be resolved.

Nonetheless, Palestinian negotiators announced in Cairo on Tuesday they had reached an accord in principle on transferring powers over eight more spheres on the West Bank.

Mr. Arafat was quoted Wednesday as saying an agreement on expanding Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank would be signed in Washington next month.

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Wellington may take Paris to Hague

WELLINGTON (Agencies) — New Zealand said on Wednesday it was considering taking France to the World Court in a bid to stop nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

The move came as the Greenpeace flagship Rainbow Warrior sailed away from France's nuclear test bite in the South Pacific to join Bastille Day anti-nuclear protests in Tahiti.

Attorney-General Paul East said in a statement it might be worth pursuing an action at the International Court of Justice, based at the Hague in the Netherlands, even if Paris declined to recognise its jurisdiction.

"It may still be worthwhile seeking to have the matter heard by the court so at least the French government would be required to oppose the jurisdiction of the court. This would be a serious diplomatic move on their part," he said.

An opinion poll this week showed an overwhelming majority of New Zealanders wanted stronger action from the government to protest against France's decision to resume nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll, in French Polynesia, from September.

Greenpeace says a legal case can be based on the threat of radioactive contamination of the ocean.

It says France is breaking the promise it made at the U.N. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) conference in May to "exercise utmost restraint" on nuclear testing.

Wellington said it was taking legal advice and would consider every option in international law, possibly along with Australia and other Pacific nations, to stop the planned series of eight underground blasts at Mururoa.

But Australia, which with New Zealand applied to the World Court in 1973 in a similar move, was unenthusiastic on Wednesday about a new court action.

"They doubt it would achieve anything, but it's also complicated by the fact that he has not done anything (in the court) between 1975 and 1991, when underground

(Continued on page 7)

Serbs round up Muslims in 'safe area' Srebrenica

France says use force to retake town

Combined agency dispatches

FRANCE STOOD virtually alone on Wednesday in advocating military action to recapture the Bosnian Muslim enclave of Srebrenica from rebel Serbs, warning that U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia would otherwise be meaningless.

The Serbs meanwhile completed the seizure of last U.N. base around Srebrenica, and reportedly began separating men from women and children among the thousands of terrified Muslim civilians now under their control.

Serbs moved into the village of Potocari, north of Srebrenica town, where the main U.N. base was located and where up to 40,000 refugees sought refuge after Srebrenica was overrun Tuesday.

The capture of the Potocari base was the final humiliation for the United Nations in the enclave.

Bosnian Serb military commander General Ratko Mladic arrived shortly afterwards with 40 trucks, and ordered the immediate evacuation of as many Muslims as possible, said Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward, a U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo.

Another U.N. spokesman, Alexander Ivanko, said Serbs then began separating men from women and children, saying all males over 16 would be sent to nearby Serb-held Bratunac to be "screened for war crimes."

"The Serbs are calling all the shots in Potocari," said Mr. Ivanko. "It definitely appears they wish to harass the refugees who are already terrified."

About 1,500 civilians, mostly women, children and the elderly, were put on the buses and driven out of town, Col. Coward said.

The United Nations did not know where the refugees were being taken, but there had been some talk about sending them to Kladanj, a government-held town about 45 kilometres west of Srebrenica, Col. Coward said.

The Dutch commander in Srebrenica managed to negotiate for one Dutch peacekeeper to accompany each truck, he added.

The status of the remainder of the 400-strong peacekeeping contingency in Potocari was unclear. Col. Coward said a number of them had been disarmed, but quite a few peacekeepers inside the base still had their weapons.

The first U.N.-protected "safe area" created in Bosnian 1993, Srebrenica also was the first to fall to Bosnian Serb forces, despite North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) airstrike Tuesday. The U.N. *failure to protect* Srebrenica prompted questions about the future of

(Continued on page 7)

Ross continues shuttle, but tightlipped on details of talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The U.S. State Department's Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross held talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Wednesday after returning form Syria, officials said.

He also met Mr. Rabin on Monday before taking his peace shuttle to Damascus where he saw President Hafez Al Assad on Tuesday.

Mr. Ross delayed his return Wednesday and saw Foreign Minister Farook Al Sharaa and Syrian army Chief of Staff Hikmat Shehabi to discuss security arrangements for an Israeli pullout from the Golan Heights to accompany any peace deal between the Jewish state and Syria.

He is working to clear the way for Israeli-Syrian military talks to resume later this month in Washington focusing on arrangements for the strategic heights.

The military talks center on demilitarisation, the deployment of international observers and the establishment of early warning stations.

The envoy was to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza City late Wednesday.

Diplomats in Damascus said the delay in Mr. Ross's departure to Israel indicated he was having "difficult" talks with the Syrians.

Mr. Ross refused to give any details except to say the discussions were continuing.

"The talks are extensive and are continuing," Mr. Ross said when asked how the talks were going. "I will be staying here for a little time longer and then I will go to Israel."

He refused to say whether he would return to Damascus.

Gloomy Iraqis suffer under renewed sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — The U.N. Security Council's decision to leave unchanged tough sanctions on Iraq cast a deep gloom over the capital Baghdad on Wednesday.

Residents meeting in restaurants and cafes in central Baghdad talked of how to make ends meet under the sanctions, imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait nearly five years ago.

After Tuesday's renewal of the curbs U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright of the United States, and Britain's Sir David Hannay both told reporters Iraq still had a long way to go to fulfil its obligations.

"It seems sanctions will never be lifted, even if we give them (U.N.) everything," said Mehdi Saleh, 23, a cafe owner.

"Tea is so expensive. With every renewal of sanctions I lose business and customers," he said.

Vendors lined Rasheed Street, some selling personal belongings others sweets and clothes. Beggars squatted by corners.

Shopowners were sad rather than angry in this colonnaded street, one of Baghdad's main landmarks.

Ali Hussein, owner of a repair shop, said few could even afford to maintain their air conditioners, leaving them to endure Baghdad's sweltering weather.

"Go to hell," retorted an old woman when a vendor told her that the price of a pair of plastic sandals was 3,500 dinars.

Mazen Khorsheed, a grocer, feared further hikes in prices. "Imagine one egg costs 80 dinars and less than half a kilo of Yoghurt is about 500."

The Iraqi dinar hit another low recently against the U.S. dollar, leading to a further *surge in prices of essential* foodstuffs.

On Tuesday the dollar was trading at more than 1,450 dinars on the black market, up from 1,250 last month.

"They (prices) are like flames which no one can touch," said a woman in a popular Baghdad market.

Sijad Abdul Adhim, 30, a restaurant owner, said he will have to raise prices to cope with inflation. "But the higher the price the less customers I have. I am making less money than before," he said.

Most people interviewed in the street hit out at the United States as the main advocate of sanctions at the Security Council.

But some said as Muslims they "leave matters in the hands of Allah."

"I am sad but what can I do. It is fate decided by the Almighty you have to believe in it," said an old man, selling worry beads.

The official press, urging the government to do something to curb the price rises, blamed profiteers and speculators.

Iraqi biological project sets back end to sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (USIA) — Iraq's recent admission that it had an advanced biological weapons programme exacerbated Baghdad's problems with the U.N. Security Council and apparently has caused the council to postpone any possible consideration of lifting the five-year-old oil embargo against Iraq.

The focus of the Security Council's 26th periodic sanctions review July 11 was the recent Iraqi admission to Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission overseeing the destruction of Iraqi weapons (UNSCOM), that it had an offensive biological weapons programme. The council meanwhile rejected Iraq's request for a delay in destroying outlawed ballistic weapons equipment.

After the session Honduran Ambassador Gerardo Martinez Blanco, president of the council, called in Iraqi Ambassador Nizar Hamdoon to inform the envoy of the council's support for UNSCOM's position that the equipment must be destroyed. The president also expressed the council's hope that Iraq will cooperate fully with UNSCOM and make the full, final, and complete disclosure on its biological weapons programme.

The Security Council also determined that Iraq has not fulfilled its Gulf war cease-fire obligations sufficiently to justify any change in the wide-ranging economic sanctions the council imposed almost five years ago. Martinez Blanco told journalists waiting outside the council chambers.

During the closed council meeting, Ms. Albright, the chief U.S. delegate to the U.N., told the council that "the Iraqi admission is the first step in a long process of verification. Whether that process becomes shorter depends entirely upon Iraq. It must change its traditional approach to cooperation with UNSCOM."

According to the text of Ms. Albright's remarks to the council, which was released to journalists, the U.S. ambassador rejected Iraq's assertion that the biological weapons programme has begun in 1985 and that it had not begun to develop weapons to carry the agents.

"In short, Iraq has a credibility problem not just because of its uninterrupted record of lying for four years," the ambassador said. "Even with four years to think up a story, it has not yet told a story that is internally consistent.

Before UNSCOM can verify that Iraq has provided a full disclosure of its biological weapons programme, Ms. Albright said, "Iraq must provide full access to the sites, equipment, documents and personnel involved in the programme. Unless past Iraqi practice changes, this will be a long and complex process with Iraq providing grudgingly only the information it believes UNSCOM already knows."

"It is no wonder that Iraq fails to be credible," the ambassador said.

"The Iraqi delegation that is telling members of the council this week that it is prepared to answer all questions on biological weapons is the very same delegation that two months ago strenuously denied to this council, to its own people, and in written and televised interviews, that it ever had a biological weapons programme," Ms. Albright said.

In a letter to the council on July 2, Mr. Ekeus reported that in private meetings that included Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz and other officials, Iraq "admitted for the first time the offensive nature of its biological weapons programme" including that the research has begun in late 1985 at the Muthanna site, where it also produced chemical weapons, and then transferred to Salman Pak in early 1986. "Until this statement, Iraq had insisted that its military biological programme was limited in scope to defensive research and that no weapons or agents had ever been produced," he said.

Iraq produced biological warfare agents at the Al Hakam facility in 1989 and 1990 and stored them there in concentrated form until they were destroyed in October 1990 "in view of the imminence of hostilities," Mr. Ekeus said.

Iraq has promised to provide a complete disclosure of the programme by the end of 1995 with a first draft ready by mid-July; at that time, Ekeus said, UNSCOM experts will visit Baghdad for talks.

Mr. Ekeus also reported that Iraq is refusing to destroy five items that are related to ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres, which must be destroyed according to the cease-fire agreement.

"Iraq's refusal to destroy proscribed missiles capabilities...constitutes, in the commission's view, a failure by Iraq to honour an obligation it has unconditionally accepted. That failure means that an action required of Iraq under section of resolution 687 (1991) remains unfulfilled," Mr. Ekeus said.

Ms. Albright said that the Iraqi refusal to destroy the ballistic missile equipment "makes plain why UNSCOM must not close its files in other areas."

"In the missile area, rather than evading their obligations, the Iraqis have decided to flout them," she said.

British Ambassador David Hannay characterised Ekeus' report as a "very important step" that has spotlighted a lot of unanswered questions

For example, Mr. Hannay said, "What became of all the equipment that they used for research, production, and so on? Why is there still a denial of weaponisation, which is a normal part of any programme of this sort, particularly since they produced very large amounts of the biological weapons material?"

SETTLERS PROTEST: An Israeli soldier watches Israeli settlers praying while they block the main Hebron- Jerusalem road on Wednesday to protest Israeli plans to withdraw from parts of the West Bank. (see page 12) (AFP photo)

Kurdish rebels say resistance led to Turkish withdrawal

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebel group claimed Wednesday their resistance forced Turkish troops to withdraw from their latest cross-border operation against the guerrillas in northern Iraq.

The rebels, known by their Kurdish initials as PKK, also gave casualty figures that conflicted with those from the Turkish government, which announced the withdrawal of 3,000 troops on Tuesday and declared the operation a success.

The PKK claimed 210 Turkish soldiers were killed while it lost only 12 of its own men in dozens of encounters over the past week.

The Turkish government, meanwhile, put the rebel death toll at 167 and said the military suffered 26 fatalities.

The PKK communique was faxed to the Associated press office in Nicosia.

The statement also accused Turkey of air raids that destroyed 13 Kurdish villages in northern Iraq, forcing thousands of civilians to flee.

The rebels claimed its operations forced Turkey to evacuate four military bases in the Kurdish region of southeast Turkey, and to concentrate its forces in a few "strategic villages."

"We are determined to destroy all the Turkish bases in the region," the statement added.

Meanwhile, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz criticised the Turkish incursion, saying it had "created a difficult humanitarian situation" in northern Iraq. His comments were reported by the official Iraqi News Agency.

The Turkish military operation in northern Iraq was the second this year. A five-week operation in March and April involved some 35,000 Turkish troops and drew criticism from Western governments.

The Kurdish rebels have been fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey, for the past 11 years. More than 16,000 people have died in the fighting.

Kurdish fighting

At least 18 people have been killed and 40 injured in clashes between rival Kurdish parties in northern Iraq, officials and militias said Wednesday.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) traded accusations for the breakdown of a three-month-old ceasefire, since fighting broke out near the main town of Arbil on Sunday.

Seven people were killed in an attack on the KDP-controlled village of Beherka, 10 kilometres from Erbil, a PUK militiaman said.

A doctor in an Erbil hospital said 40 civilians were injured, including several children hurt by shelling. Three people died in Al Gumhuriyeh hospital of their injuries, he said.

KDP television, meanwhile, read out the names of eight civilians it said were killed in the village of Mulla Omar, also near Erbil. Hundrerds of families have fled their homes around the town.

The PUK has lost at least 20 men against six for their rivals, the KDP said, adding it also came under attack near Shaqlawa, to the east of Erbil.

There was no confirmation from the PUK, which has said the fighting started with KDP attacks in the Balisan and Zina-Tir areas as well as in the Halabja area near the Iranian border.

The truce between the two groups was due to expire on July 15 but Iranian sources have said it was being extended for another month after indirect talks in Tehran.

Their dispute over power and tax revenues has claimed some 2,200 lives since May 1994, according to Kurdish sources. Iraqi Kurds look control of northern Iraq in April 1991, following the Gulf war over Kuwait.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Americans held for bringing water to Palestinians

HEBRON (AP) — Two American peace activists were detained Wednesday after they cursed Israeli troops blocking them from delivering water to a Palestinian family. The people detained were Cliff Kindy of North Manchester, Indiana, and Jeff Heie, of Washington D.C., both activists in the Christian Peacemakers team in Hebron, said a colleague, Wendy Lehman. Mr. Kindy and Mr. Heie were carrying two water tanks to a Palestinian family, the Abu Khaykels, whose well dried up five months ago, Ms. Lehman said. The Abu Khaykels live next to the Jewish enclave of Tel Romeida which consists of seven trailer homes in the heart of the Palestinian city of 110,000. For the past five month, the Abu Khaykels have depended on the delivery of water tanks by the municipality. Recently, the city stopped delivery, saying the tanks would be destroyed by the Tel Romeida settlers. Mr. Kindy and Mr. Heie had dropped off one tank at the Abu Khaykel home and were about to deliver the second Wednesday when settlers blocked their path with cars and troops told them they could not proceed, Mr. Lehman said. "They tried to go in anyway and the soldiers arrested them and told them they would be held for 24 hours," Ms. Lehman said.

Iran bans colour posters for elections

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian deputies voted Wednesday to ban the use of colour campaign posters for next year's legislative elections, parliamentary sources said. They gave no reason for the decision. The assembly also made it illegal for ministries and other public organisations to campaign for or against any candidates. The first round of the parliamentary polls are due on March 8. It will be the fifth legislative election to be held in Iran since the 1979 revolution. The 270 deputies will be elected for a four-year term, over two rounds.

Israel, Germany boost research ties

BONN (AP) — Gemany and Israel created a research council Wednesday to boost joint development of high-technology businesses, with a focus on dams, highways and other projects in the Mideast. The council inaugurated by foreign ministers Shimon Peres of Israel and Klaus Kinkel of Germany will identify promising projects and help bring entrepreneurs in both countries together to back them, Mr. Kinkel said. The focus is on dams and desalination projects, highways and communication in Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian autonomous territories, Mr. Kinkel said. Both Israel and Germany are strong in energy and environmental technologies that will be key to develop the region, he said. Germany has provided $110 million in economic aid to back up the Palestinian settlement with Israel, seeing Arab economic progress as key to making peace and securing the Mideast as a place to invest and market German products.

U.N. chief wishes Mubarak well

CAIRO (R) — United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria on Wednesday to wish him well after Mubarak's escape from an assassination attempt, Egyptian officials said. Dr. Ghali, an Egyptian who was once Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, did not speak to reporters before going to see Mr. Mubarak in the Mediterranean port city. The Egyptian president escaped an attempt on his life in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa last month. Dr. Ghali arrived from Athens and U.N. officials said he was to fly to Cairo later Wednesday but that it was not clear if he would meet any officials in the capital. He will leave Egypt for Rwanda on Thursday morning, the U.N. officials said.

Suspected militant killed in Beni Suef

CAIRO (AP) — A militant accused of trying to set up a series of assassination in Cairo was killed Wednesday in a shootout with police. Police said Abdul Aziz Amin Al Sherif, a senior leader of the Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah, was shot and killed during a raid. Two comrades were arresed and weapons were seized, they said. The shooting took place in Bebba village in Beni Suef province, 100 kilometres south of Cairo. Sherif was named as a defendant in a case involving 15 suspected militants accused of attempting to kill two policemen in 1993 in Beni Suef. On Tuesday, government prosecutors demanded the death penalty for Sherif and three others, who all are in custody. The prosecution called for prison terms for 11 other defendants in the case.

Kuwaiti shoots wife and daughters

KUWAIT (Rf) — A Kuwaiti man shot and wounded his wife and three daughters in a family quarrel, the newspaper Al Qabas reported on Wednesday. It said the 45-year-old man fired a pistol twice at his 40-year-old wife, who was seriously wounded, and then shot his daughters when they tried to stop him. One of the wounded daughters crawled to a neighbour's house to call police. The newspaper did not say what caused the quarrel.

Lebanon minister warns against vote-buying

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Interior Minister Michel Al Murr warned candidates in a parliamentary by-election due on Sunday that anyone caught buying votes would be publicly denounced and jailed. "There are rumours that some candidates are paying money to mayors or electoral agents to buy votes." Mr. Murr was quoted by newspapers on Wednesday as saying. He said he had ordered police to investigate. "This is a crime which can be punished by prison and invalidation of the election result," he added.

Beirut reconstruction hit by 'curse' of Phoenicians

BEIRUT (AFP) — The multi-billion-dollar reconstruction of Beirut's war-devasted city centre is facing delays as archaeologists unearth ancient monuments including a 2,500-year-old Phoenician neighbourhood.

The scheme to rebuild and develop the city centre — the largest of its kind in the region — has also triggered the most important urban archaeological site in the world as well as angry debate.

As more and more finds are unearthed, the private real estate firm Solidere which has already invested $1 million to finance the excavations may have to modify its plans.

"It is as if the Beirut of the year 2000 has been struck by the curse of the Phoenicians," said one expert, declining to be named.

"There is much pressure and money involved. It's a race but not a lost race," said Dutch archaeologist Hans Curvers who leads one of 12 Lebanese and Western teams working on 22 sites.

Archaeologists work painstakingly by hand, and sometimes with toothbrushes, just feet away from bulldozers that have dug huge trenches and started laying miles of sewage pipes and electrical and telephone cables.

Solidere was to launch its first overground project at the start of 1995: The reconstruction of 19th century Ottoman souks that sit on top of one of the wealthiest archaeological sites.

It is there that a Lebanese university team led by Hussein Sayegh found in April the Phoenician neighbourhood — six houses where fishermen once lived, narrow roads and arches.

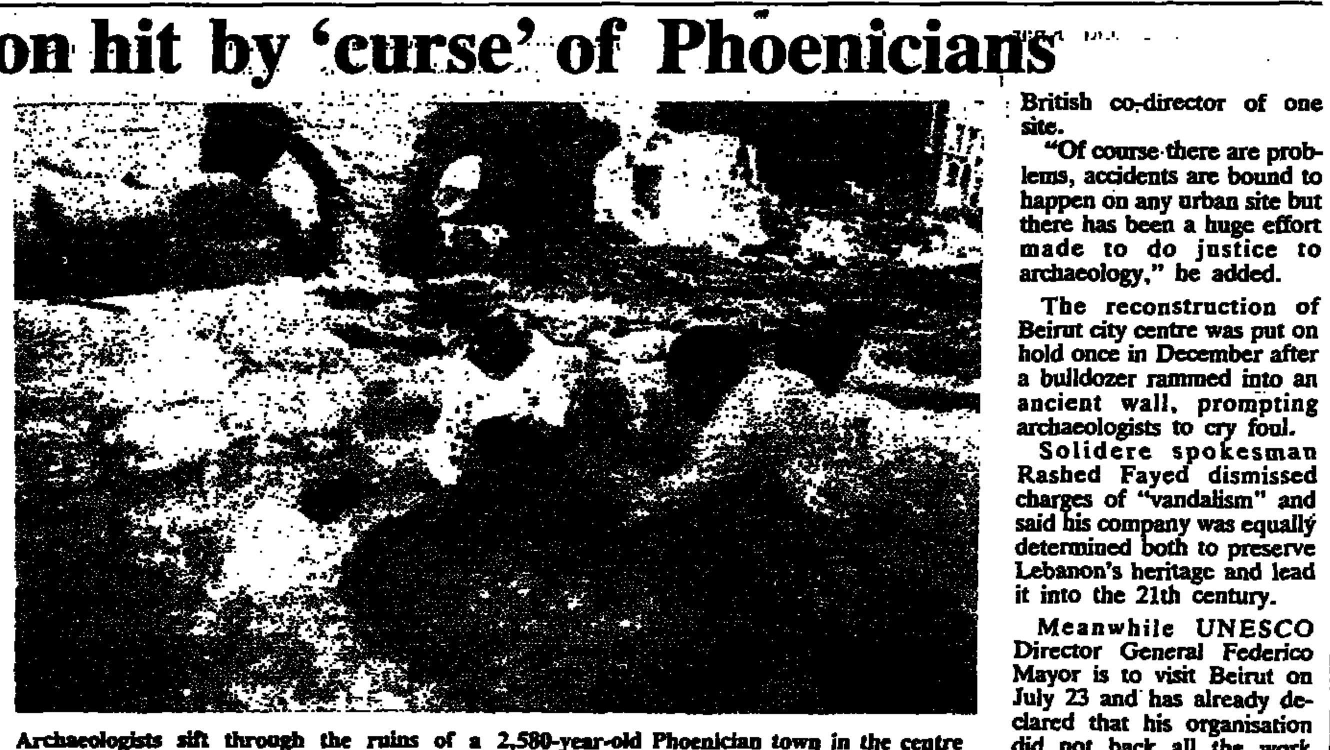
It is there also that Solidere plans to build an underground car park with places for more than 2000 vehicles.

Archaeologists, deputees and the Association for the Protection of Ancient Homes and Sites (APSAD) went on a war footing to demand protection for the site.

As a result officials, Solidere, the national antiquities department and UNESCO agreed to set up a scientific committee to try to find a satisfactory solution.

"This is a rare opportunity which cannot be repeated. We were never before able to find entire Phoenician neighbourhoods in their own homeland," said Mr. Sayegh.

"We have asked for extension for the past two months and our wishes have been granted but we don't know for how much longer," he said.



Archaeologists sift through the ruins of a 2,580-year-old Phoenician town in the centre of Beirut (AFP photo)

As he spoke bulldozers dug into the ground deeper and deeper in preparation for the car park.

Frenchman Pascal Arnaud who was asked by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to report on the excavations, said recently: "We cannot in the name of the past cut off the road to the future."

"Over the past year we have unearthed enough material and it will take five to 10 years to sift through it," he added.

Among the items found by archaeologists are a 60-metre Ottoman wall, tombs, a marble Venus, ovens for glass, pottery and purple dye production, mosaic floors from the Roman-Byzantine era and flint stones.

"It is an enormously complicated project. Solidere and the antiquities department have behaved in an adequately creditable fashion in light of the problems they face," said Dominique Perrin, the British co-director of one site.

"Of course there are problems, accidents are bound to happen on any urban site but there has been a huge effort made to do justice to archaeology," he added.

The reconstruction of Beirut city centre was put on hold once in December after a bulldozer rammed into an ancient wall, prompting archaeologists to cry foul.

Solidere spokesman Rashed Fayed dismissed charges of "vandalism" and said his company was equally determined both to preserve Lebanon's heritage and lead it into the 21th century.

Meanwhile UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor is to visit Beirut on July 23 and has already declared that his organisation did not back all the work being undertaken in the city centre.

The excavations launched two years ago cover an area of 80,000 square metres, but archaeologists hope to extend the work to cover a total area of 200,000 square metres.

Multi-billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Hariri has donated $1 million to the project and UNESCO has pledged $600,000.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

13:30	Iris-the Happy Professor
13:40	Noddy
14:00	Fireman Sam
15:00	Pirates Island
15:30	Take Your Pick
16:00	I Witness Video
17:00	French Programmes
19:00	News in French
19:30	News Headlines
19:35	National Geographic
20:30	The Album Show
21:15	Murder She Wrote
22:00	News in English
22:25	Feature film: "Laura Lansing Slept Here"
22:59	Homicide

PRAYER TIMES

04:01	Fajr
05:34	(Sunrise) Duha
12:41	Dhuhr
16:22	'Asr
19:48	Maghreb
21:12	'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasancta Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise slightly today but still remaining below average with winds northwesterly, moderate. Tomorrow: temperatures will rise further becoming around average. In Aqaba, moderate weather conditions will prevail with winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman	15/29
Aqaba	24 /37
Deserts	14 / 33
Jordan Valley	22 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28 Aqaba 36, Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ghaleb Zawaydeh	736011
Dr. Yousef Nasr	751144
Dr. Walid Al Masri	675485
Dr. Mahmoud Hindi	898787
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Naraukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Nasharti pharmacy	623672
Najeh pharmacy	847632

IRBID:

[illegible] Al Shoffuri	246140
Al Quds pharmacy	(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ratib Atallah	984344
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police 192, 621111,	637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	607155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)980560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital	(02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30	Aden (RJ)
08:15	Sanaa (RJ)
09:30	Dhahran (add) (RJ)
09:45	New Delhi (RJ)
10:00	Riyadh (RJ)
10:30	Beirut (RJ)
10:45	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:00	Colombo (RJ)
17:35	London (RJ)
18:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
19:15	Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:35	Athens (RJ)
19:45	Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
20:00	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
21:00	Rome (RJ)
00:30	Larnaca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:00	Doha (Q7)
13:40	Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
13:40	Sharqah (AH)
14:00	Riyadh (SV)
17:00	Rome (AZ)
18:45	Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:35	Cairo (MS)
21:10	Beirut (ME)
21:30	Dubai (EK)
23:20	Istanbul (TK)
00:50	London (KL)
01:10	Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45	Beirut (RJ)
11:45	Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
12:00	Rome (RJ)
12:00	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
12:20	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:55	Paris (RJ)
13:00	Athens (RJ)
13:15	London (RJ)
13:15	Cairo (RJ)
20:30	Larnaca (RJ)
21:30	Jeddah (RJ)
21:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:30	Dubai (RJ)
22:45	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:45	Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:45	Beirut (ME)
13:30	Damascus, Doha (Q7)
14:30	Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain, Muscat (GF)
14:30	Algiers (AH)
15:30	Riyadh (SV)
21:25	Cairo (MS)
22:30	Dubai (EK)
02:35	Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman	8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus	5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus	7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman	5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	700/ 500
Apricot	600 / 400
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammar)	620
Cabbage	100 / 50
Carrot	200/120
Cauliflower	320/ 200
Cucumbers (large)	120 / 80
Cucumbers (small)	220 / 100
Eggplant	160/ 80
Garlic	650/450
Grapes	500/300
Lemon	420 / 300
Marrow (large)	150 / 100
Marrow (small)	230 / 180
Mulukhia	120 / 80
Okra	750 / 600
Onion (dry)	170/ 100
Orange	350/250
Peaches	600/450
Pepper (hot)	260 / 200
Pepper (sweet)	200 / 120
Potato	340/ 280
String Beans	270 / 180
Sweet Melon	270 / 180
Tomato	90/50
Water Melon	90 / 50

Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb Wednesday meets with visiting Iraqi Minister of Industry and Minerals Hussein Kamel Hassan. Secretary General of the ministry Mohammad Smadi (left) also attended the talks (Petra photo)

Jordan, Iraq review trade, industrial sectors

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker received at his office Wednesday visiting Iraqi Minister of Industry and Minerals Hussein Kamel Hassan.

The two officials discussed Iraqi-Jordanian relations and issues of common concern to the two countries.

Mr. Hassan then met with Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and discussed Iraqi-Jordanian cooperation in economic and trade fields and reviewed Arab industries in general.

The meeting was attended by Iraqi ambassador to Jordan Nouri Weiss.

The Iraqi Minister later met Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh, and discussed mutual cooperation in the areas of energy and electricity.

Lower House urges restraint in Egyptian-Sudanese dispute

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday appealed to the Egyptian and Sudanese leaderships to contain their disputes and deal with their differences through constructive dialogue.

The House also appealed to parliamentarians of other Arab countries to display their responsibilities and to play a leading role in the subduing the crisis.

The Lower House of Parliament in Jordan has been following the developments in the relations between Sudan and Egypt with significant concern, said a House statement.

The House urged the political leaderships in Cairo and Khartoum to work diligently towards containing the dispute and to exercise maximum degrees of self-restraint and to establish a close dialogue to end the crisis, added the statement.

In expressing the conviction that Arab differences can and should be tackled within the Arab fold and away from any form of violence, the Lower House called on its colleagues in the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples' councils to exert special efforts towards the suppression of tensions between Cairo and Khartoum.

The statement also called on parliamentarians in all Arab states to study the Egyptian-Sudanese crisis and to seek ways for defusing the problem through any possible means.

JD 1m Swiss grant to go towards vocational training

AMMAN (Petra) — Switzerland is to supply JD 1 million's worth of equipment to the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) centres around the country to assist and upgrade training courses, according to an agreement signed at the Ministry of Finance Wednesday.

Under the terms of the agreement, a Swiss technical team will undertake the process of coordinating and cooperating with the VTC in implementing the agreement as well as in purchasing and installing the equipment at the various centres.

The equipment will be used for student training, according to a statement following the signing ceremony.

Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Gian Federico Pedotti and VTC Director General Ali Nasrallah signed the agreement.

Catholics prepare for pastoral, spiritual revival of church

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — July 14th will earmark an important date for Catholics in Jordan with the inauguration of the diocesan synod in the country and the beginning of a long march towards spiritual and pastoral renewal in the church, according to Father Joseph Burby, head of the Jesuit Centre in Jordan, which is organising the meeting.

Father Joseph told the Jordan Times that on June 4 there was a formal opening at the Latin Patriarchal seminary in Beit Jala, near Bethlehem, of the same synod for all Catholics in the Holy Land.

He said that around 5,000 Catholics from the West Bank, Israel and Jordan joined together for special prayers and religious festivities in celebration of the unity of Catholics in the Holy Land and in expression of their expectations for church renewal in the years to come.

On July 14, Father Joseph said, it will be the turn of Catholics in Jordan to celebrate their unity and to express their hopes for the future. Those expected to come for this momentous celebration will be from different parts of the Kingdom, including non-Jordanians and non-Palestinians who reside or serve in the country.

According to Father Joseph, at least 5,000 people are expected to attend the meeting at the Freres College in Jabal Hussein.

He said that Catholics in Jordan, estimated at 55,000, nclude Roman, Syriac, Greek and Armenian Catholics who, along with other non-Catholic Christians, number more than 225,000.

After the inauguration of the synod, there will be several joint church activities involving the clergy, religious men and women and the laity, according to Father Joseph.

He added that these activities will continue over the next few years, extending into the year 2000.

Thus, the church in Jordan will be launched into the third millennium and will work slowly but surely towards spiritual and pastoral renewal at a time when the country is developing through this era of peace and construction, he added.

Father Joseph said that the synod will pursue its goals in three phases.

The first phase, he explained, aims at personal spiritual formation and faith renewal, the second seeks to arrive at a detailed study of the changes necessary in church pastoral practices and structures, and the third phase will round up different activities, putting together documents that will hand out practical guidelines for church renewal on all the different levels.

With the conclusion of the three phases, Father Joseph added, the church in Jordan should become more open to the possibilities of living the Christian faith in step with the changing times and increasingly in the service of justice and peace.

Save Water ... Every Drop Counts

'Iman Futeimat victory marks another first in women's struggle for political representation'

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

KHIRBET AL WAHADNEH — Iman Futeimat's victory in Ajloun Tuesday, followed by Hayat Farhan Maqboul's victory in Hashimiyeh town of Maan after the final vote counting on Wednesday, brought two women to mayoral seats for the first time in the Kingdom's history.

Ms. Futeimat's victory in Khirbet Al Wahadneh, a municipality in Ajloun, has put an end to male monopoly over the mayoralty and demonstrated the women voters' determination, especially in the predominantly conservative areas, to represent themselves on the political and social levels.

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, contacted Ms. Futeimat to congratulate her on becoming the first woman to be declared a mayor,the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Tuesday.

Princess Basma said that Ms. Futeimat's success reflected the Jordanian citizen's trust in women and added that the win will further encourage Ms. Futeimat's efforts to better serve the country.

Coming from the town of Khirbet Al Wahadneh (population 5,000) in Ajloun, Ms. Futeimat's sweeping victory over five other candidates, was seen by many, including herself, as the start of a new phase of events in Jordan.

Ms. Futeimat dominated the other five candidates by almost 200 votes,obtaining 514 and topping candidate Mahmoud Shuqairat who netted 370 votes.

Other candidates Zaki Bader won 361 votes, Radwan Gazouh 244, and Mohammad Toumeh recieved only 50 votes.

"It is a great feeling which I cannot quite describe. It is wonderful to have won the elections and to be able to work for the people," Ms. Futeimat told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

Ms. Futeimat is 27-years-old, holds a degree in physical education from Ajloun Community College, and has taught at a school in Ajloun. She is from the predominantly conservative village where she was elected, and was fully supported by her family during the campaign.

Ms. Futeimat's mother, Karma, said she was proud of what her daughter had accomplished.

"I appreciate the hard work and consistency which led my daughter to her success," said the 56-year-old woman.

Mohammad Futeimat, Ms. Futeimat's uncle and campaign manager said, "I am an open-minded person, and I encouraged Iman to run for the position because I believed that she should do it."

I was hoping to break with certain conventions in my bid for the seat, Ms. Futeimat said."

She stressed, however, that this victory was no retribution against tribalism or traditions value, but rather a response to the need for fresh ideas which was starting to assert itself strongly. "The rules of religion and tradition will continue to apply in harmony with our views for the benefit of our community in general," Ms. Futeimat said.

"I was intent on applying the rules of democracy which provides women with a role in the society, and I was fortunate to receive the full support of my family and the majority of the people in my town," she said.

Ms. Futeimat defeated was easy all the way, pointing out that there were some objections to her running by conservative thinkers. But she said she felt she had been able to prove her abilities and had gathered even the support of those who opposed her candidacy towards the end of the campaign.

In addition, Ms. Futeimat said she sensed a powerful show of support from women in her village "because of their ever-growing awareness in the rural community."

"We have a large group of educated and conscientious women who supported me all the way and their turn-out was very visible, Ms. Futeimat stated.

Ms Futeimat, one of nine siblings, cited women's lack of participation in public work as one of the main issues she and other women were hoping to address.

"In most municipalities, doors are always closed to women, and they are not given the same opportunities as men," she said, stressing that she will concentrate on involving more women in public service.

One area she hopes to ameliorate is the public service sector in her areas. Ms. Futeimat said health and social services in Khirbet Al-Wahdaneh were deteriorating partly because of the increasing population.

Ms. Futeimat's position will be further enhanced, when she begins serving her four-year term, by her team of six council members who were elected unanimously by acclamation.

Radwan Gazouh, one of the six members to serve in the municipality, said that one of the main reasons Ms. Futeimat won the mayoral seat was because of the support of women and the youth in their area.

"We supported her from the beginning and dedicated our efforts to changing common perceptions on women running for elections," Mr. Gazouh said.

The number of registered voters in Khirbet Al-Wahadneh was 1,639, out of which 64 per cent actually voted. Registered female voters outnumbered the registered men voters. Fifty-nine percent of the vote for Ms. Futeimat was cast by female voters.

Zuleikha Abu Risheh, a well-known writer and women's activist, reacted to the victories of Ms. Futeimat and Ms. Maqboul saying: "The Jordanian society has begun to change towards women. There is an internal move which is going hand in hand with an international move concerning women's issues and the victory of two women in Jordan's municipal elections is a notable change in the eyes of the society. In my opinion, such a victory is more important than a woman winning a seat in parliament because winning a popular election in one of Jordan's municipalities establishes a solid base of support for that candidate and will reflect in the continuum of the democratic march in the country."

Ms. Futeimat said: "My victory is not for me but for all women in this society. I may have started on this new road, but other women are certain to follow."

Iman Futeimat

Jordan-Japan agree on metal industries training venture

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Wednesday signed minutes of their meeting which detailed a cooperative effort in the establishment of a Jordanian institute for training in metal industries in the Kingdom.

According to VTC Director General Ali Nasrallah, who initialed the agreement with a representative of the JICA, the minutes define the tasks to be carried out by the proposed institute which will take five years to establish and equip.

The minutes also define specialisations within the field of metal industries and proposed workshops on various training courses.

The minutes call for the creation of a Jordanian-Japanese committee to study arrangements for the establishment of this institute, according to Mr. Nasrallah, who noted that the committee, which is to be chaired by the VTC director general, will group 11 members from both sides including five Japanese experts.

The agreement, he added, calls for Japan to send a group of six Japanese experts in metal industries to work in Jordan and to create opportunities for training up to four Jordanians annually in Japan over the next five years.

Stating that the agreement was in implementation of a 1985 agreement with Japan on technical cooperation, Mr. Nasrallah said that Jordan was looking forward to increasing cooperation with Japan which holds one of the top positions of industrial nations in the possession of valuable experience in vocational training fields.

Two Japanese experts are already in Jordan helping the VTC to plan and design courses for proposed institute.

Another 41 Japanese volunteers are working with the VTC at the corporation's centres around the country.

Early this month a two-day workshop, orgranised by JICA in cooperation with the VTC and the Ministry of Labour,addressed the procedures of establishing a mineral industries institute in the Kingdom.

Vocational Training Corporation Director General Ali Nasrallah and a representative of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency sign minutes of their meetings on cooperation in training in the metal industries (Petra photo)

Japanese youth programme to foster sense of duty

Amman (J.T.) — A statement issued by the Japan News Bulletin Wednesday said that the Ministry of Youth in Jordan has selected 12 Jordanian youths(8 women and 4 men), following an invitation by the Japanese government for them to participate in a programme called 'The International Youth Development Exchange Programme for Fiscal 1995.'

Other participating countries include Brazil, Costa Rica, Denmark, Nepal, U.S. and Zimbabwe, according to the statement.

The programme aims to aquaint young people with life in Japan and its society.

Activities will include participating with Japanese youths in events as diverse as industry and culture, visits to facilities, stays in private homes and participation in the International Youth Village, the statement said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

* "La Ciénaga," at the Instituto Cervantes at 4:30 p.m.
* "The Horse Soldiers," at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

CONCERT

* Classical music concerty by Somer Band at Darat Al Funun, Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by Khdeir Shukraji at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
* Paintings by Muhannad Bushnaq at Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis.
* Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Funun Jabal Weibdeh.
* Paintings by Bernadette Gerges and Rita Gerges entitled "Lebanon Tomorrow," at the Royal Cultural Centre.

It is with great sadness
that we announce
the passing away of

Mr. Najib Mousa Sahyoun
on the 10th of July 1995 in
Divon-France

He leaves his beloved wife Sergine Sahyoun Abu-Halka and his daughters Michelle Sahyoun Sarraf and "Marlene Amal" Sahyoun Borel.

May his soul rest in peace.

Condolences :
Sahyoun 01220 Divon-France

Vietnam sees new era of cooperation with the U.S.

HANOI (AFP) — Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet Wednesday hailed the establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and United States as "an important step" in ending decades of animosity between the former enemies.

"The government and the people of Vietnam welcome the decision by President Bill Clinton and stand ready to discuss with the United States a new framework for relations," Mr. Kiet said in a broadcast from the White House — the name of the premier's office in Hanoi.

"It's an important step that reflects the general wish of broad sections of the American people to put the past of the war behind them and to build a normal, friendly and cooperative relationship with Vietnam," Mr. Kiet said.

He added that Vietnam looked forward to working with the United States to build a new relationship based on "respect for independence, equality and focussed on mutual interests."

"The people and government of Vietnam will continue their efforts to cooperate with the United States to reach the fullest possible accounting of American soldiers who disappeared during the war," he said.

Announcing the move in Washington, Mr. Clinton said he believed relations "would advance the cause of freedom in Vietnam, just as it did in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union."

As one of the last few remaining Communist countries, Vietnam has remained wary of U.S. intentions on such issues as human rights and democracy, frequently cautioning Washington against interfering in its internal affairs.

"I believe that every nation had the right to choose its own political system and that this is a basic principle of international law," Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai told a news conference when asked about Mr. Clinton's remarks.

Mr. Mai said that Hanoi "stands open to conduct a dialogue on all issues including human rights but this should be considered in global terms and not just as part of U.S.-Vietnam relations."

Mr. Kiet, an economic reformer from southern Vietnam, has led efforts by the government to cajole the United States into establishing diplomatic ties with Vietnam 20 years after the end of the war here.

Vietnam now looked forward to a growth in contacts "above all in the areas of economics, trade, science and technology," he said.

The countries will begin talks on a full range of agreements that still need to be put in place when Secretary of State Warren Christopher visits Hanoi in August as the most senior U.S. official to come here.

No decision has yet been made on when they will exchange ambassadors, Mr. Mai said. A future U.S. ambassador must be approved by Congress, where considerable opposition to normalisation remains.

Relations with the United States begin a month of diplomatic successes for Vietnam after years of isolation, as Hanoi will soon join the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and sign an important treaty with the European Union.

In a conciliatory finale to his address, Mr. Kiet urged the more than one million Vietnamese living in the United States to help their former homeland. Many fled from Vietnam after the war and remain implacably hostile to Hanoi.

"We call upon all Vietnamese living in the United States to help each other in unity to strive for a peaceful and prosperous life, helping develop a new relationship between Vietnam and the United States," Mr. Kiet said.

Americans living in Vietnam cracked open beers and celebrated their country's new diplomatic ties Wednesday but most Vietnamese were nonchalant about a development many see as long overdue.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Hanoi and the former Saigon held parties to celebrate normalisation, which many major U.S. investors such as Mobil, Citibank and Coca Cola have supported since the lifting of the U.S. trade embargo in February 1994.

"I think we all agree that the president's decision will advance U.S. interests in Vietnam," James Hall, head of the U.S. Liaison Office in Hanoi, told American expatriates on the dusty lot where the future ambassador's residence will be built.

Around 100 people stood for the Vietnamese and American national anthems, interspersed bizarrely with a burst of the Internationale, which was quickly whipped off the record player.

U.S. businesses have heartily welcomed the move. "It's time to look forward," said Mobil spokesman Greg Smith, echoing an advertisement the oil company placed in U.S. newspapers calling for normalisation.

Mobil was the first firm to discover oil in Vietnam in 1974 and returned last year to explore again in the South China Sea.

"People will feel safer and more confident once there are diplomatic relations," said Stewart Semple, an executive with the Maryland-based BBI Investment Group which is planning a $243-million resort complex on Danang's China Beach, where U.S. soldiers once went on vacation.

"Hopefully people will do more travel and tourism here and stop thinking of Vietnam as a war," he said.

Americans living in Hanoi gathered in the early hours of Wednesday to watch President Bill Clinton's announcement on satellite television in a pub in the city's ancient quarter, frequently breaking into loud cheers.

"Excellent, just excellent," said Chuck Searcy, who fought in the war and now heads the Hanoi office of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation that organises aid projects.

Russia Wednesday welcomed Washington's decision to normalise ties with Vietnam, saying the move came "better late than never."

Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev told ITAR-TASS news agency that Moscow's attitude towards the U.S. move "can only be positive." He voiced regret that the normalisation came so long after the end of the war in Vietnam.

China welcomed Wednesday the establishment of diplomatic ties between the United States and Vietnam, saying it hoped the move would be conducive to regional peace and stability.

"We welcome the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam," said a Foreign Ministry spokeswomen.

"We believe this serves the interests of the two peoples and accords with the current general trend of relaxation in state relations," she said, adding that China hoped the move would "be conducive to peace and stability in this region."

Japan welcomed Wednesday the establishment of full diplomatic ties between the United States and Vietnam, saying it hopes the move will lead to an improvement in investment opportunities.

Washington to reassure China on ties with Hanoi

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States, struggling to keep relations with China afloat, took pains to reassure Beijing that recognition of Vietnam would not undermine Chinese influence in Asia.

"The action of the United States to normalise relations is certainly not directed against any country," Secretary of State Warren Christopher told journalists minutes after President Bill Clinton made the landmark announcement.

"It is directed at the improvement of our relations with Vietnam and meant to be a measure of our engagement in the Asian-Pacific region," he said.

Mr. Christopher's remarks came amid speculation that the United States was seeking to contain China, Asia's military and nuclear giant, by recognising Vietnam and improving ties with Taiwan.

Relations between the United States and China plummetted after Mr. Clinton allowed President Lee Teng-Hui of Taiwan to make a private U.S. visit at his alma mater, Cornell University, in June.

The decision infuriated Beijing which regards the island-state as a renegade province and prompted what some consider to be retaliatory action with the arrest of dissident Harry Wu who has been charged with espionage.

Mr. Christopher said he hoped to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen next month on the sidelines of a meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations "so that we can have a chance to discuss and consider our relationships."

"We desire excellent relationships with China," he said.

He asserted that the United States intended to pursue its long-standing policy of recognising Beijing as the sole legitimate government of China, stating that "nothing has changed" on that front.

But Mr. Christopher did for the first time speak out in defence of Mr. Wu, a Chinese-born dissident who has denounced Beijing's prison camps where he spent 19 years of his life.

The secretary of state, called for Mr. Wu's immediate release and suggested that relations between the two countries could suffer if Beijing insisted on putting the U.S. citizen on trial on charges of espionage.

"I think that the thing that would be most conducive in relationships between the United States and China, between our Congress and the Chinese leaders as well as our administration, is the early and prompt release of Mr. Harry Wu," he said.

"I hope the Chinese will see the advantage to our mutual relationship of an early release of Mr. Wu."

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday Mr. Wu is guilty of sneaking into China and stealing state secrets, but his case needs further investigation before charges are issued.

Whether Mr. Wu's trial is public or secret will depend on what kind of state secrets investigators determine he stole, spokesman Shen Guofang said.

Mr. Wu, who was born in China and served 19 years in prison camps before emigrating to the United States, was arrested on June 19 trying to enter northwest China's Xinjiang region from Kazakhstan.

Despite a consular agreement providing for speedy access, U.S. embassy officials first met with Mr. Wu Monday, in the central city of Wuhan. On Saturday, he was formally arrested and accused of spying, a crime punishable by death.

"We Hongda repeatedly sneaked into China using aliases and illegally obtained China's state secrets and passed them to overseas organisations," Mr. Shen said, using Mr. Wu's Chinese name. "His activities have already constituted a crime."

"Further investigation is needed because... more evidence needs to be gathered," Mr. Shen said at a news conference.

In China's often intentionally obscure judicial system, suspects are first detained, then formally arrested when evidence is deemed sufficient to support a criminal charge.

U.S. panel approves bill to tighten Cuba embargo

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A key House of Representatives committee approved a bill aimed at tightening the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba.

The House's International Relations Committee passed the "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act," a bill designed to keep foreign investors away from the Communist-ruled island, by a vote of 28-9, including eight Democratic votes.

"I believe this will be one of the final nails in Fidel Castro's coffin," said one of the legislation's authors, Representative Dan Burton, a Republican from Indiana.

Mr. Castro has been in power since 1959. He has so far survived the collapse of the Soviet Union, which long subsidised his government, and a 33-year-old U.S. embargo.

Mr. Burton said the bill will be reviewed in the next few weeks by the House Ways and Means Committee and probably be ready for floor debate before the August recess.

Similar legislation is pending in the Senate, where it was introduced this year by the Foreign Relations Committee's chairman, Jesse Helms, a Republican senator from North Carolina.

The House panel passed its version despite the strong objections voiced by the Clinton administration, which sought to gut key provisions of the proposed legislation.

According to its Democratic critics, the Helms-Burton bill will generate mountains of red tape and lawsuits, strain the United States' diplomatic ties with close allies and diminish the chances of a peaceful political transition in Cuba.

The committee's leading Democrat, Lee Hamilton of Indiana, argued that the United States should foster cultural contacts and dialogue with Cuba to bring about a revolution like the ones that took place in the late 1980s in Eastern Europe.

The bill's proponents intend it to have a "chilling effect" on Mr. Castro's strategy to attract foreign investors.

One of its provisions would allow tens of thousands of Cuban exiles who have become U.S. citizens to file suit here against foreign companies that "traffic" in property confiscated after Mr. Castro's revolution in 1959.

Another would bar entry to the United States of executives of firms that traffic in those properties.

Yet another provision would require the U.S. Treasury to set up a certification procedure to ensure that countries that buy Cuban sugar cane products do not re-export them to the United States.

Moderate Cuban opposition leader Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo urged the United States Tuesday to end its embargo on Cuba and detailed his recent landmark meeting in Havana with Cuban President Fidel Castro.

But the Republican-run House of Representatives' international relations committee nonetheless approved a bill.

Mr. Gutierrez Menoyo, who served 22 years in a Cuban jail as a political prisoner and lost his sight on one side from prison beatings, made his first trip to Cuba since 1986 on June 14 to talk to Mr. Castro about the island's domestic situation and international relations.

"There is a 'momentum' that, if it is taken advantage of, could lead to the acceleration of the democratising process," Mr. Gutierrez Menoyo told reporters. "This was the conclusion that I reached from my conversations with high-level officials of the Cuban government and with Fidel Castro himself."

"Now more than ever, it will be possible, beneficial, and useful to engage in a different United States policy towards Cuba," he added.

After winning its own 20-year diplomatic fight to normalise relations with the United States, Vietnam on Wednesday put in an appeal for Washington to end its isolation of Cuba.

"The United States should end its policy of isolation against Cuba and let the people of Cuba determine their own destiny," Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai told a news conference.

Vietnam has been a staunch ally of Cuba since the revolution there and has frequently called for an end to the 33-year-old U.S. trade embargo. Hanoi endured a similar trade ban from 1964 until February last year.

Major's son holidays with married woman

LONDON (R) — British newspapers, starved of private-life gossip about happily married Prime Minister John Major, claimed Wednesday his teenage son had spent a holiday in France with a married woman. James Major, 19, denied reports in February that he had had an affair with 30-year-old Elaine Jordache, a manageress he had worked for as a department store trainee. Her husband Michael has cited Mr. Major in divorce proceedings. Several tabloid newspapers, each claiming the story as an exclusive, said the couple had been to Nice in the south of France but were now back in Britain.

Ugandan man, 100, marries girl, 12

KAMPALA (R) — A 100-year-old Ugandan man married a 12-year-old girl after an affair that lasted for months, a Ugandan newspaper reported Wednesday. The Monitor said that Samuel Bukoro was married to the girl, named only as Nyamihanda, in a traditional ceremony in the western Rubaya village on July 1. Ugandan laws do not permit marriage or even sexual affairs with girls under 18 years and the offence is normally punishable by life imprisonment. But Bukoro, who is a witch-doctor, insisted he would keep his bride despite opposition from the child's parents and villagers, The Monitor said.

Scientist 'holds answer' to Hitchcock mystery

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — A scientist may have solved an Alfred Hitchcock mystery — why did the birds from his celebrated film of the same name descend on a small fishing village, terrorising its inhabitants. David Garrison, a biologist at the University of California suggested the birds, whose frenzied attack in the movie was inspired by a real incident in Monterey Bay, California, in 1961, might have been suffering from food-poisoning. Hitchcock, who lived a few miles away at the time, gathered newspaper stories about the incident before making his 1963 film The Birds. Garrison said the birds were probably suffering from plankbon-spawned food poisoning, induced by an acid identified only in 1991. The acid is believed to have been responsible on a number of occasions for the death or disabling of seabirds feeding on plankton-eating anchovies in the area. In the 1961 incident, eight people in Capitola were reported nipped by seabirds

Sherlock Holmes memorabilia to to be auctioned

LONDON (AP) — Two pipes, a pile of earth and a cigarette case? What can it all mean? Elementary: One of the most comprehensive collections of Sherlock Holmesia is going on sale later this month, Sotheby's Auction House announced. The collection, from the estate of a senior member of the Sherlock Holmes Society, includes a rare edition of Beeton's 1887 Christmas annual, where Arthur Conan Doyle first published a Sherlock Holmes novel. The first appearance of A Study In Scarlet, is expected to fetch between £10,000 to £15,000 ($16,000 to $23,000) — a fare cry from the £25 (approximately $125 at the time) that the magazine paid the struggling young doctor. Other items going under the hammer include two large jars containing soil and water from Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland, where Holmes supposedly met his death battling his nemesis Dr. Moriarty in The Final Problem. The death was premature. Conan Doyle was persuaded to revive the detective by a large cash advance from his American publishers. The collection of Stanley MacKenzie, a stage manager who was considered the preeminent British Holmes expert until he died this year aged 82, also includes the Meerschaum pipes used by the stage actor H.A. Saintsbury, the best-known Holmes in the first decades of the century. The pipes were gifts from Conan Doyle to the actor, as was a cigarette case inscribed "Sherlock Holmes," presented in 1910 to celebrate Saintsbury's 1,000th performance as the detective.

7 killed in Karachi violence despite talks

KARACHI (R) — Seven people were killed in Karachi despite an agreement between government and ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM) leaders to work for peace in Pakistan's commercial hub, police said Wednesday.

The deaths raised this month's death toll to 115, the highest in a 12-day period since 1992, according to police figures.

Police said a badly tortured body with severed limbs was found in a sack near a garbage heap in district east Wednesday. The unidentified man was apparently kidnapped, tortured and shot dead before his body was dumped.

The other six were killed overnight by gunshots in the west, central and east districts, police and doctors said.

A joint statement issued after the first round of talks at Islamabad Tuesday said vigorous efforts would be made to restore peace in Karachi.

The MQM has threatened to demand a separate province for Karachi if the talks fail.

Previous talks between the two sides failed last year and more than 1,000 people have been killed so far this year compared to about 800 in 1994.

Patten defeats no-confidence bid in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AFP) — Hong Kong's Legislative Council Wednesday saved Britain from a major embarrassment by massively voting down the first no-confidence motion against one of the colony's governors.

The Democratic Party (DP), accusing Britain of an "unholy alliance" with China, proposed the motion against Governor Chris Patten. It was angered by a Sino-British deal last month to bring the territory's top legal authority, the Court of Final Appeal, into force only after the July 1997 handover in China.

But the vote was defeated 35 votes to 17, with four abstentions.

The motion proposed by DP member Cheung Man-Kwong said "the British administration in Hong Kong has seriously damaged the future rule of law in Hong Kong" and thus the assembly had no more confidence in Mr. Patten.

If the motion had passed, it would have had no technical effect on Hong Kong's executive-led government. The governor is not an elected official, but is appointed by the queen.

Yet it would have been a crushing blow to Mr. Patten's credibility, with little less than two years to go to the handback.

Some Legislative Council members may have been swayed by an appeal by Mr. Patten's number two, Chief Secretary Anson Chan, who warned of serious consequences for Hong Kong if the legislature declared it had no faith in the administration's commitment to the rule of law.

"It encourages needless anxiety and apprehension among our overseas business partners and thus threatens our future economic prosperity," she said.

Legislators, led by DP Chairman Martin Lee, were incensed at the June 9 Sino-British agreement on the empowerment of Hong Kong's new Court of Final Appeal only after the British colony's July 1997 return to China.

It was the first time in more than 150 years of British rule that a Hong Kong governor, who under 19th century colonial law is answerable only to London, has faced a vote of no confidence.

Ironically, the Democratic Party, which controls 15 of the Legislative Council's 60 seats backed Mr. Patten's limited democratic reforms unveiled in 1992, sending Sino-British relations into a tailspin.

Mr. Patten had dismissed the Democrats' threats as "gesture politics," ahead of Legislative Council elections in September, the first under the governor's controversial reforms.

After the vote, he issued a statement through a spokesman saying he was "naturally pleased at the outcome."

"But for us, the big vote continues to be the one on the Court of Final Appeal bill later this month, which is so vital to Hong Kong and to the confidence of the world's investors in our future."

"We will continue to work flat out to get the best possible result on this major issue," he said.

The Court of Final Appeal is needed to replace the Privy Council in London as Hong Kong's paramount appellate after 1997, when the territory is to retain its British-style common law system.

Mr. Patten repeatedly said the court had to be set up at least a year before Hong Kong's handback, in order to establish credibility and shore up public confidence.

But in a sudden turnaround, Britain bowed in China's wish that the court only begin its work after the handover — although legislation needed for its establishment would be adopted in advance.

Toll rises to over 50 dead in Burundi attack

BUJUMBURA (AFP) — The death toll from an attack by masked men on a market in the northeast Burundian province of Muyinga has risen to more than 50, including both Hutus and Tutsis, the Burundi Press Agency (ABP) reported Wednesday.

According to the ABP, which interviewed survivors from Sunday's attack on Cagizo market in the Butihinda area of Muyinga, several masked men in a red van fired automatic weapons and threw grenades into the crowd.

The witnesses said the attackers apparently came from the neighbouring province of Kirundo, north of Muyinga, to where they reportedly returned after the attack.

The national radio station announced 48 dead Tuesday night, but according to local sources some of the wounded died in hospital. The exact number of wounded was not released.

The reasons for the attack are not clear, but Muyinga province is one of the most troubled in Burundi. Armed bands of Hutus, who form the country's ethnic majority, are in conflict there with Tutsi militia, as well as with the Tutsi-dominated regular army.

The situation is compounded by the presence of thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees, who fled their country last year after the genocide conducted by the Tutsis.

The Cagizo attack wass very similar to an incident last year in the Bugorora market, not far from Cagizo. The death toll from this incident was never made public.

Pro-Aristide coalition takes lead in elections

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A coalition endorsed by President Jean-Bertand Aristide took a commanding lead in the first round of legislative elections, according to partial results released early Wednesday.

the Lavalas Platform's domination was hardly a surprise. It claimed victory four days after the June 25 election and was the only political organisation that didn't condemn the vote as chaotic and possibly fraud-tainted.

First results in races for more than 2,000 local and legislative offices signal the emergence of an overwhelming pro-Aristide government, considerably enhancing the president's political standing.

Mr. Aristide, whose term ends next February, cannot succeed himself, but has said might run again in 2000.

The Lavalas Platform presented no clear-cut programme, but its allegiance to the still-popular Aristide successfully wooed an electorate disillusioned with partisan politics.

Publication of the hand-tallied results had been postponed from a scheduled Saturday release, just as elections themselves were postponed several times. The runoff has been pushed back from July 23 to August — the exact date is still up in the air.

In the 18 Senate races, four Lavalas platform senators won their seats outright, and 10 were in a good position to win runoff elections in August. Results for the other four Senate races were not yet available.

Seven of the nine incumbent senators whose seats were uncontested also are Aristide supporters.

In the 83-seat Chamber of Deputies, Lavalas platform candidates won 16 spots, while 39 others were in a favourable position to win runoffs.

Simpson defence witnesses dispute time of murders

LOS ANGELES (R) — O.J. Simpson's defence team introduced a bevy of witnesses Tuesday to dispute the time at which prosecutors say his ex-wife and her friend were killed, including neighbours and a couple who strolled by the murder scene and saw nothing unusual

The former star athlete had pleaded not guilty in the June 12, 1994, stabbing deaths of Nicole Brown and here friend Ronald Goldman. The timing of the murders is seen as crucial.

Among the witnesses called by the defence Tuesday was a couple who said they walked past Nicole Brown Simpson's house right after the prosecution claims simpson murdered her, and saw nothing unusual.

Dan Mandel and Ellen Aaronson, who were on their first date, testified they walked past the murdered woman's house at about 10:30 p.m. local time on June 12. The area appeared normal and they did not hear any dog barking, they said.

Nicole Simpson's neighbour, Denise Pilnak, who lived 75 yards (metres) from the victim, said she did not hear a dog barking until 10:P35 p.m.

Prosecutors say Nicole Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman were stabbed to death by Simpson outside her condominium between 10 and 10:15 p.m. the defence is trying to show the killings took place later.

Mr. Simpson opened the door of his mansion at 11 p.m. for a limousine driver who was to take him to the airport for a flight to Chicago. His lawyers say he did not have time to commit the murders, get rid of the weapon and bloody clothing and drive back to his mansion two miles away.

Several witnesses testified at Simpson's preliminary hearing in August that they heard a dog start barking at about 10 p.m. on June 12 and the barking went on for about an hour.

Ms. Pilnak contradicted that earlier testimony and prosecution witness Pablo Fenves, a neighbour, who said he heard the dog start barking at around 10 p.m. before 10-35 p.m., she said, "it was as quiet an evening as I remember."

Nicole Simpson's dog, Kato, was subsequently found walking the streets and led a couple to the bodies at about midnight. But Mr. Mandel said he did not see anything unusual or hear a dog barking when he and Aaronson walked past the condominium.

Mr. Mandel said he knew the approximate time he and Aaronson passed the condominium because he had glanced at his watch shortly after and it was about 10:30 p.m. Aaronson testified she did not see any bloody paw prints or hear a dog wail.

Another witness, Francesca Hamon, said she drove by Nicole Simpson's apartment at around 10:30 p.m. on the night of the murders and saw nothing unusual. She also did not hear a dog barking in the neighbourhood at that time.

In all six witnesses testified Tuesday to the absence of any unusual events at around 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday's first defence witness was Simpson's older sister Shirley Simpson-Baker. She was followed by Jack McKay, a psychological association executive who played golf with Simpson in Virginia on June 8 and who described Simpson as "very cordial, friendly, very willing to shake hands."

The defence is trying to show that at no time before or after the murders did Simpson display a killer's demeanor.

Overview of a devastated Wui Dihu village after it was hit by floods caused by torrential rain submerging the homes of more than 20,000 people in Han Shou (AFP photo)

China river level stays high, but no new deaths

BEIJING (AP) — The Yangtze River's water levels were still at record levels in some places, but the official press and central government Tuesday reported no new casualties or flooding.

Already this summer, nearly 1,200 people have died in flooding in 10 provinces in southern China, mainly along the Yangtze River, the country's longest.

But provincial officials have said rains have abated in recent days and the flood situation was improving. The Civil Affairs Ministry said Tuesday it had no update on its Friday figure of 1,179 dead.

China's national television network aired glimpses of the devastation the flooding caused in Hunan and Jiangxi provinces

Boxy, concrete buildings typical of many country towns stood like islands surrounded by water for hundreds of metres on all sides.

Some 28,000 people in Hunan left homeless by the flooding have been given temporary shelter and food, China Central Television reported. The provincial government is preparing to give them material to repair their homes once waters recede.

Footage taken Saturday but transmitted Tuesday showed peasants in ravaged Xinjian county in Jiangxi being loaded on to boats at night to be taken to safety.

Jiujiang, in Jiangxi, saw its worst flooding in 100 years, with the Yangtze's level there at 22.18 metres, 2.68 metres above the warning level, official papers said.

Two-thirds of the city's crop lands have been flooded, and it has been inundated with residents from neighbouring Hubei and Anhui provinces fleeing the floods. At least 30,000 people have come from just four countries in Hubei and Anhui, the Farmers' Daily reported.

In the nearby city of Anqing, Anhui province, just downriver from Jiujiang, the water level Monday was 17.88 metres, its highest since the Communist took power in 1949. The water level is 1.8 metres above the warning level, and exceeds heights reached during severe flooding in 1954 and 1983, reports said.

Some 670,000 residents were "seriously affected" by the flooding, the reports said without explanation. Waters breached or washed away 131 dikes and flooded 16,140 hectares (39,870 acres) of farmland.

Shanghai's Liberation Daily said the nearby city of Nanking, on the lower reaches of the Yangtze, has coped with flooding since late June without a single loss of life.

On July 6, persistent rain caused an 80-metre breach in the Banqiao River dike, jeopardising 10 nearby towns and villages. But the lives of more than 10,000 residents were saved by the speedy actions of the army, which came "as if dropped from the heavens," the report said.

By July 4, workers had protected more than 180 sections of rail lines in southwest China from flood waters, and prevented trains from overturning in sections where tracks had flooded, reports said.

Earlier reports said severe flooding in south China had interrupted train service for up to 14 days. Trains are the main mode of long-distance travel in China.

Summer flooding hits southern China every year, but unusually heavy rains this year have caused water levels to rise in nearly all rivers and lakes. Last year, more than 4,300 people died in summer flooding.

Nationalists jeer Orangemen at Belfast march

BELFAST (R) — Catholic nationalists jeered and threw bottles at Northern Irish Protestants as they marched through a Belfast flashpoint Wednesday at the start of annual parades that are testing province's fragile peace process.

Sporadic violence broke out across Northern Ireland on the "glorious twelfth," which marks a Prostestant victory in battle 305 years ago. At least 13 people were injured and 10 arrested, police said.

Police in riot gear with armoured four-wheel-drive vehicles swarmed into the flashpoint Lower Ormeau Road area early Wednesday after local residents said they would try to block the march. They sealed in furious residents to avoid confrontation.

Belfast officials feared a repeat of the violence in the country town of Portadown which flared when Protestant Orangemen insisted on marching through nationalist Roman Catholic areas. The dispute was resolved, but only after clashes between police and Protestant activists.

A few bottles smashed harmlessly in the Lower Ormeau Road. Most nationalists banged garbage bin lids and blew whistles to protest against the bowler-hatted Orangemen loudly playing drums and pipes to commemorate the victory at the Battle of the Boyne.

Residents were angered by what they considered to be heavy-handed policing and Gerry Adams, president of the Irish Republican Army's Sinn Fein political wing, issued a statement appealing for calm and accusing the police of provocation.

"Despite the clear provocation by the RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary) and the triumphalist noises from the Orange Order, I would appeal for calm," said Mr. Adams, who telephoned police headquarters to protest at what he called a "curfew."

Mr. Adams had already said he recognised the order's right to march but that they should take account of the "changed agenda" and be sympathetic to the feelings of local people.

Protesters unfurled banners saying "re-route sectarian marches" while about 300 people chanted "we want the curfew lifted" as they confronted police lines.

Tens of thousands of the province's Orangemen, standard bearers of Protestant life in the British province, parade each July 12 to mark the Battle of the Boyne when Protestant King William of Orange routed Catholic King James's forces in 1690.

This is the first year since the troubles began 25 years ago that Orange Day parades have taken place against a backdrop of peace. Last September the IRA declared a ceasefire and its move was matched by Protestant guerrillas in mid-October.

The "marching season" has painfully laid bare the old hostilities that have shaped Northern Ireland's political life, showing that guns and bombs may have been silenced but little progress has been made in securing communal harmony.

Organgemen see July 12 as an important symbol of their allegiance to Britain but nationalists see it as anachronistic and tinged with triumphalism and old prejudices.

There were big turnouts all over Northern Ireland for bonfires traditionally lit on the eve of the "glorious twelfth." On Wednesday morning the remains of one was smouldering as the armoured police vehicles arrived at the Lower Ormeau Road.

During the night there were several incidents in Belfast. In the north of the city, police, trying to separate rival factions, fired plastic bullets at people hurling petrol bombs and stones.

Cars were hijacked and burned. Three officers were injured and there was one arrest.

In East Belfast, a cabin formerly used as a Catholic chapel was destroyed by fire. A blaze also destroyed Protestant Orange Order halls in Belfast and in Belleek in south Armagh.

Grieving relatives pray for miracle in Seoul

SEOUL (R) — Hundreds of grieving relatives prayed for miracles Wednesday in hope of finding more survivors in the rubble of a Seoul department store nearly two weeks after it collapsed.

"It's an unimaginable miracle," said Lee Hwan-Sop of the teenage woman pulled out alive Tuesday after surviving 12 days beneath tonnes of debris.

Mr. Lee, whose daughter is believed to be one of more than 200 people buried under the wreckage, said: "My child must be still alive. I pray for her life."

Survivor Yoo Ji-Hwan, an 16-year-old shop assistant at the store, was recovering rapidly. "Now, she can take some solid food," said a spokeswoman at St. Mary's Hospital where Ms. Yoo was being treated.

Doctors said Choi Myong-Sok, 21, another shop assistant who was pulled out of the wreckage Sunday after 9½ days of entombment, was on his way to complete recovery.

The rescues of Ms. Yoo and Mr. Choi have revived hopes of finding more survivors, spurring workers to comb the collapse site for clues of more life.

"Our work is now concentrating on searching for survivors rather than retrieving corpses," said an official at the government's emergency Task Force Office.

Rescuers said fortune tellers and experts on spiritual forces were also helping them search for survivors.

State television KBS and other reports said several seers and experts in spiritual forces, known as Ki in South Korea, were allowed to help the search after a university professor gave a tip-off about Mr. Choi.

Politics Professor Im Kyong-Taek, who visited the collapse site Saturday, told rescue workers he felt strong Ki being emitted by a survivor. Choi was rescued a day later.

News reports said before Mr. Yoo was rescued, a Chatholic nun had forecast there would be a survivor at a certain spot. Ms. Yoo was rescued about three metres away.

The families of the missing people, spending nights and days at a nearby school where the city set up a camp for them, also demanded murder charges against those responsible for South Korea's worst peacetime disaster.

A government spokesman said the demand was made when family representatives met Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo after rescue workers retrieved more than a dozen bodies following Ms. Yoo's rescue, taking the official death toll to 237.

They also demanded an apology from Mr. Lee or President Kim Young-Sam for the collapse, the latest in a string of man-made disasters which have killed hundreds of South Koreans.

Opposition: Japan must move capital from Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Japan's main opposition party, stepping up its campaign for next week's upper house elections, said Wednesday that the nation should build a new capital to replace Tokyo.

Speaking to reporters in the ancient capital of Nara in western Japan, former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said his party would soon submit to parliament a bill designed to move the capital away from Tokyo.

Mr. Kaifu heads the New Frontier Party (NFP) which formed late last year.

Tokyo has been Japan's capital since the early 17th century although it was called "Edo" until 1867.

While political, administrative and judicial authorities should be moved from Tokyo to other cities, Tokyo should remain the nation's economic centre, Mr. Kaifu said.

The idea of moving the capital from Tokyo has been debated among politicians, scholars and business leaders since the early 1980s but has never moved ahead, mainly because of strong opposition from bureaucrats and conservative politicians.

Mr. Kaifu argued that Tokyo was so densely populated that it could not fully function as a capital.

By decentralising the capital, the nation would also be better prepared for a big earthquake which experts say could hit Tokyo at any time, Mr. Kaifu said.

Mr. Kaifu was speaking on a campaign tour ahead of the July 23 contest to fill half of the seats of the 252-seat upper house of parliament.

The elections are the first nationwide test for Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's unwieldy coalition made up of his Socialists, the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the small Sakigake Party.

Sri Lankan military claims success against Tamil rebels

COLOMBO (AFP) — The Sri Lankan military Wednesday claimed success in their offensive against Tamil Tiger guerrillas but the government said it was ready with a new political package to end the civil war.

The military said 10,000 soldiers who advanced into the rebel-held territory linked-up Wednesday afternoon bringing a vast area of the northern Jaffna peninsula under their control.

"So far it has been a great success. There was very little resistance today," military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said. He added that the military had secured a vital supply route to all its northern bases.

Justice Minister G.L. Peiris told reporters here there would be no fresh negotiations with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"I can say categorically, that there will be no discussions whatsoever with the LTTE," Mr. Peiris said. The Tigers pulled out of six months of talks with the government to resume its separatist campaign on April 19.

Mr. Peiris said President Chandrika Kumaratunga, a member of the majority Sinhalese community, will this weekend finalise a series of proposals to grant greater devolution of powers to minority Tamils.

He said the campaign in the LTTE-held Jaffna peninsula was aimed at clearing the way for a political solution to the conflict which has claimed over 50,000 lives in the past 23 years.

The government will go public with the political package within two weeks, Mr. Peiris said.

His remarks came as Power Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte said the objective of the ongoing offensive was to free the Tamil civilians from the control of the LTTE.

"We will completely liberate the innocent Tamil population from the grip of the LTTE," said Mr. Ratwatte, another member of the majority Sinhalese community, as he visited front line troops.

Government forces are still about six kilometres away from the town of Jaffna, the capital of Tamil separatism and where the Tigers maintain their de facto state with its own police and civil administration.

The LTTE said it put up stiff resistance at the psychologically important Vaddukoddai village where a moderate Tamil party 19 years ago formally launched a separate state demand which was later hijacked by the LTTE.

The LTTE's clandestine radio, the Voice of Tigers, said they fought fierce battles with the security forces at Vaddukodai and Chankanai, both in to the north of Jaffna town.

However, military spokesman Brig. Munasinghe denied there was fighting in Vaddukoddai. "If there is any fighting there, it must be amongst themselves," he said.

However, he said the Tigers Wednesday blew up a bridge on a land route to Jaffna in a bid to pre-empt a military march.

Shops in Jaffna remained closed and 145 bodies of war victims were brought to the main hospital there, travellers from the region told reporters at the government-held town of Vavuniya on the northern mainland.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported heavy civilian casualties in the offensive. It said at least 65 people, including 13 infants, perished in an air force attack on a Roman Catholic Church Sunday.

Military losses have been listed as 18 killed and 116 wounded. The army claims killing 11 rebels but the Tigers have not spoken of an casualties on both sides.

The government moved to soften the blow for civilians by offering free food, and medicine if they crossed to areas under government control.

The Tamil Tigers, already assailed by the major army offensive, are facing a new threat — black magic.

A sorcerer in the north-western regin of Kaudumunna drove pins into a photograph of rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, cursed it for a week and and then boiled it in oil in a bid to kill him, Lankdeepa daily said Wednesday.

Mr. Prabhakaran leads the LTTE.

Burma's Suu Kyi calls for patience

RANGOON (Agencies) — Newly freed opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Wednesday democracy was on its way to Burma but appealed to her supporters to be patient.

Speaking through a megaphone from behind her front gate, Ms. Suu Kyi thanked about 200 supporters waiting outside her home, saying she was grateful for their support and encouragement.

The crowd cheered "long live Aung San Suu Kyi" several times after her brief impromptu speech.

Burma's military government revoked an order Monday that had confined her to the compound of her house for the last six years.

The crowd, which steadily grew throughout the day, quietly dispersed after Ms. Suu Kyi's speech in which she also urged them to leave and clear the road for traffic "as a good omen for our cause."

Earlier Wednesday, inside her ramshackle lakeside home near Rangoon University, Ms. Suu Kyi held her second news conference since her release.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to warn everybody not to expect too much too quickly," she said when asked if she was worried expectations had grown too high over her abilities to bring Burma back to democracy quickly.

"I think there is still a long way ahead, and the way is not going to be all that smooth. But as long as we have a will and as long as we go about it intelligently I think we'll get there," she added.

Ms. Suu Kyi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, said expectations that are too high always lead to disappointment, and refused to set a time frame for democracy.

"If I mention a certain time period then people would latch on to that and I don't think it's healthy," she said.

For the second successive day since her unconditional release, Ms. Suu Kyi did not venture outside her house.

Early Wednesday she met small groups of supporters inside her compound.

"She said: 'it all defends on the people, and if the people are brave, patient and perservering we can achieve our goals,' one woman said after emerging from a 10-minute meeting with Ms. Suu Kyi.

By Wednesday night there had still been no official announcement of her release by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

Ms. Suu Kyi said she was not surprised her release had not been announced in the Burmese media. "Nothing surprised me. After what I've gone through the last six years I'd be very silly if I let myself get surprised."

Ms. Suu Kyi said she was meeting pro-democracy colleagues, and had not yet decided what her next steps would be.

"I think it will probably be another week or two before I can say anything definite, because it takes time. We have to organise... and in the next week or two we'll know things are working out."

Ms. Suu Kyi said she had no plans for public rallies or meetings until she had had further consultations with colleagues.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia Tuesday welcomed the release of Ms. Suu Kyi.

"The release of Suu Kyi — an indomitable crusader for democracy, rule of law, and human rights — is a victory for democratic forces and freedom loving people of Burma," Mrs. Zia said. "We believe that it will pave the way for the early restoration of democracy in Burma."

Human Rights Watch-Asia welcomed Ms. Suu Kyi's release but urged continued international pressure on the Burmese ruling military junta to achieve democratic rule.

"Human Rights Watch-Asia believes that without full restoration of basic human rights, including freedom of association, speech, assembly and the press, it is unlikely that the kind of political development called for by Aung San Suu Kyi can take place."

"By keeping the lid on light, the State Law and Order Restoration Council may feel it can afford to release Aung San Suu Kyi, while enticing foreign trade and investment," said Human Rights Watch-Asia research associate Zunetta Liddell.

"If there is any hope of restoring basic human rights, and civilian, democratic rule, international pressure must be maintained," she said.

2 killed, 36 hurt in Burma-China border quake

BEIJING (R) — Two people died and 36 were injured, two seriously, when an earthquake measuring 7.3 on the open-ended Richter Scale hit a thinly-populated area along the Burma-China border Wednesday, Chinese officials said.

Two elderly women died of heart attacks when the earthquake jolted their homes in Menglian county near the border with China in south-western Yunnan province at around dawn, an official of the Menglian disaster relief office said by telephone.

He said 36 people in Menglian county were injured, two of them seriously.

The tremor, described by officials as serious, caused varying levels of damage in seven other countries, an official of the Yunnan Seismological Bureau said from the provincial capital, Kunming.

"As the rescue effort and search gets under way the number of dead and injured is likely to rise," he said.

Most people were still sleeping when the earthquake, with its epicentre across the border in Burma, rocked the region just before 6:00 GMT (2200 GMT)), resulting in the relatively high number of injuries, he said.

The official in Menglian said many of the injured were hurt when they panicked and leapt out of windows.

"People living on higher floors felt buildings sway from side to side while those lower down felt the earth go up and down," he said. "Everything fell off the table and it was really quite frightening."

Bangladesh sends army to rescue flood victims

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh called in the army Wednesday to help rescue millions of people marooned by the latest floods to sweep northern districts, officials said.

They said the death toll rose to 41 after 14 people drowned or died in house collapses Tuesday.

Nearly three million people have been marooned in the districts of Rurigram Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Bogra and Sirajganj, they said.

The flooding has affected 23 of Bangladesh's 64 administrative districts.

Officials in Sirajgang said most people were now perched on roof-tops after the town was flooded. "People move in boats or make-shift rafts in the town," one official told Reuters.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia flew to Gainbandha, Bogra and Sirajgang Tuesdy to supervise relief operations.

It is the second time in less than two months that floods triggered by heavy rains and floodwaters sweeping in from neighbouring India has engulfed much of the country's north.

Impeachment move against Yeltsin fails

MOSCOW (R) — A move to try to impeach President Boris Yeltsin flopped in its early stages Wednesday when a proposal to launch the impeachment procedure failed to win enough votes in parliament.

Some 168 deputies in the State Duma (lower house) voted in favour of a Communist-initiated motion for a commission to be set up to consider starting impeachment procedures against the 64-year-old Kremlin leader. This was well short of the 226 votes.

The final vote was influenced by ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) which withdrew its support for the move to set up a commission. The LPFR accounts for about 50 seats in the Duma.

Mr. Zhirinovsky said the action had been undertaken out of consideration for Mr. Yeltsin who was admitted to hospital on Tuesday with a heart problem.

"We do not want the condition of the president to get worse. It is not decent when a man is in hospital and there are people wanting to dismiss him," he told journalists.

But even with the LDPR's support, the proposal had stood little change of being passed. The Communist Party has proposed impeaching Mr. Yeltsin over his dissolution of the previous parliament in 1993, his handling of the Chechenya conflict and a hostage crisis in southern Russia last month.

The Kremlin's decision to publicise details of President Yeltsin's heart condition after he as hospitalised has set a precedent after years of official secrecy about such matters.

The Kremlin provided regular updates on Mr. Yeltsin's condition, including the result of his electrocardiogram test, after announcing that he had been admitted to hospital Tuesday morning with chest pains.

Although the medical reports were brief, observers here Wednesday praised the authorities' groundbreaking attempt to lift the veil on a Russian leader's state of health.

Initially Mr. Yeltsin, 64, was said to be suffering from a "worsening heart ischaemia" — a disease involving insufficient blood flow into an organ that can lead to a heart attack.

However, Mr. Yeltsin's office later said the [illegible] was able to get up by [illegible] after the pain had subsided.

Presidential spokesman Sergei Medvedev said Wednesday that Mr. Yeltsin had spent a calm night and his blood pressure was "stable."

Doctors recommended that he stay in the Kremlin hospital for the time being.

The influential liberal daily Sevodnya reported Mr. Yeltsin's admission in hospital with the headline: "The president's transparent illness."

"The habitual custom of maintaining secrecy about illnesses afflicting the country's top leaders is finally losing its credibility. One can only hope that the same will apply to other state secrets," said the paper's editor Dmitry Volkov.

For decades during the Soviet period Russians were accustomed to following [illegible] about the often shaky health of their leaders.

Optimistic official health reports on 1980-1985, when three Soviet leaders died, provoked widespread derision.

Jordan Times

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Another triumph for them

IMAN FUTEIMAT, who at 27 became the first woman to be elected as mayor, is not the first woman to hold public office in this country. Nor is she the first to be elected to a public post. Women in this country have joined public life since the early days of the Kingdom, thanks to the support and encouragement of an enlightened leadership. They have served in government, the army and the police force. Their numbers in offices, private and public, is not too far below men peers. By appointment they serve in ministerial posts and in the Senate.

But since Toujan Faisal became the first woman ever to be elected to the Lower House of Parliament, people's perceptions of women and their role in society have changed remarkably. The significance of Ms. Futeimat's victory is that she won in a presumably conservative village, unlike Ms. Faisal who won in the most liberal district in Jordan, Amman's third district. Together with the victory of Hayat Maqboul, who also won mayorship in a little village in the south, and half a dozen of other council members in different parts of the country, Ms. Futeimat triumph should go some distance to dispel the notion that ours remains a man's world. Of course, Jordanian society remains dominated by men, but the impressive showing by these women in local elections is a testimony that democracy pays.

There were many voices in the past few years calling for a special quota for women in parliament. Those voices argued that in a male-dominated society women had little chance of competing with men. The municipal elections, however, have strongly indicated that women need no quota to win. What needs to be remembered here is the fact that the number of registered women voters in Khirbat Al Wahadneh, where Ms. Futeimat won, exceeded men by more than 200. In essence this means that numbers count and what remains to be done is to get organised.

There are indeed many lessons to be learned from this week's local elections. The most important of these lessons is the fact that, left to make their own judgements, people are very capable of making the right decisions for themselves.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour Wednesday said a study by Bar Ilan University in Israel has revealed that Israel incurred some $20 billion in lost business as a result of the Arab boycott over the past 48 years. The study also showed that Israel suffered another $16 billion in losses during the past period as a result of foreign firms refraining from investing in the Jewish state under pressure from the Arab League, according to Musa Kilani. The writer said that an end to the Arab economic boycott of Israel will allow the Jewish state to mass fortunes far exceeding its own dreams because its products will no doubt invade the Arab markets. The reason behind Egypt's adamant opposition to ending the boycott against Israel is the fear that Israeli consumer products will flood the Arab markets, and at the expense of the hundreds of thousands of Egyptian workers in the Arab countries, said the writer. He said that Cairo has lately encouraged the Gulf states to hold on firmly to the boycott rules and refuse to normalise relations with the Jewish state, which led to strained Israeli-Egyptian relations.

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily criticised the Algerian authorities' policies vis-a-vis the opposition parties in the country. Last Saturday, said Mahmoud Rimawi, the government refused to allow these parties to hold a rally on human rights though these parties are licenced and operating legally in Algeria. Expressing the view that the government's stand was undemocratic, the writer said it is strange to hear the government bragging about its respect of democracy, and human rights. The ban on the rally reflects the fact that the political crisis in the country is as deep as ever, said the writer, who pointed out that the opposition groups could easily be employed to mediate between the government and the Islamic Salvation Front — a banned group which is at war with the government. The writer expressed the view that the opposition, which groups hundreds of prominent Algerian personalities, can save the country from the cycle of violence that has brought about untold sufferings for the Algerian people.

The View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

Let children be our teachers

CHILDREN ALL over the world have almost always been viewed as extremely delicate and vulnerable members of the human race, requiring our constant care, protection and guidance. While there is certainly a great deal of truth in our assumptions, there is also a great deal of unfairness and injustice.

Traditionally, we have looked at children, both at home and at school, as individuals who are almost eternally and helplessly reliant on us. As parents and teachers, the responsibility falls on us to teach and educate children, to guide them, to watch out for them and watch them, to correct their behaviour when they misbehave, to lecture at them, to threaten and to even punish them, all under the claim of upbringing and education.

At one level, of course, this is all true. Children are born more or less a blank sheet. Even though they may inherit certain abilities, potentials and temperaments, the environment plays a crucial role in shaping their individual characters. The parents and the teachers are indeed called upon to instill in them, through constant drilling (explanations, illustrations, lectures, threats, etc.) and by example, sound moral values and apt sentiments and ideas. In the early stages of their development children are almost totally reliant on their parents and teachers to show them the what, the how, the when, the where and the why.

Moreover, part and parcel of being a child is to be playful, carefree and somewhat careless and irresponsible. Childhood is generally referred to as a stage or state of innocence, and innocence denotes a state of mind which is characterised by unawareness of the consequences of many actions, by a remarkable degree of freedom and by the desire to overstep limits.

Nevertheless, children are not totally innocent, carefree, free and irresponsible. Even the most casual encounter with children reveals that there is more seriousnesss in them, more understanding of rules and limits, more discipline and more commitment than most people think. I would argue that children have the potential to be (and most of the time they actually are) more serious, more rule-abiding and more committed to whatever they are taught than adults.

A friend of mine told me (and I later witnessed what he said in action) that he had taught his seven-month-old boy, and successfully, not to play with his books and papers (lest he should damage them). The first time he came near the books, he told me, I stopped him with my hand and said to him "no" firmly. I repeated this a few times, he went on, and the child never came near the books. The child would extend his hand in the direction of the book or the piece of paper and then remembering my words, he would say to himself 'no' and pull his hand back." His son is a year and a half now. He walks around the apartment, when people are and are not around, and would never touch or play with anything he is asked not touch or play with. I am sure many parents reading this can remember and come up with even better examples than this.

The point to emphasise here is that if we change our attitude a little bit towards children and start seeing them as persons capable of responsibility, understanding, learning, respect of rules and limits, our upbringing and education processes may be a lot more successful than they are now. This is important for both parents and teachers to realise. The main challenge here (and I am fully aware of it) is how to make children listen, understand and obey. This is not easy, I know; but I know, at the same time, that the successful parent and teacher know how to address children in the right manner. And for those who do not know, there are some good books on the subject. The impact of adopting the right attitude towards children on part of parents and school teachers (as opposed to the traditional and somewhat incorrect attitudes) is tremendous. For one thing, children under a healthy environment (an environment under which they are not falsely underestimated and misunderstood) can learn a lot more pleasantly, a lot faster, a lot more effectively and durably and a lot more meaningfully. Among the many impediments which stand in the way of effective learning and development of children in our society, both at home and at school are the parents' and teachers' reductive attitude of children, misconception and underestimation.

For another thing, and this is what I wish to doubly underscore here, children themselves can be active and effective participants in the shaping of our daily lives and our society. In other words, children themselves can guide and teach us. I mean this.

Take the following example (and I am sure many of you have experienced similar incidents). I have always insisted to my four-year-old boy that when we are in the car driving, he should never stick his hand or head out, for it may be hit by a passing vehicle. I have always made sure not to stick my own hand or head, for the worst thing you can do to children is to tell them something and violate it yourself; they will never take you seriously. Recently, however, I forgot a couple of times and stuck by elbow out of the window. Each time I did it, he screamed at me: "Put your hand in. Are you crazy? Do you want to lose your hand?" I apologised earnestly.

The other day, I saw a report on American television showing how teachers aim to influence the behaviour of parents through their children. In many states here, they have recently required people in the back-seat of a car to wear the seat belt. Several schools have explained the point to students. The report shows that every time somebody sat next to the child and forgot to put the belt on, the child will immediately say, "buckle up."

The report cited another, and perhaps more interesting example. Students were taught not to buy and not to let their parents buy things made of the skin of certain endangered animals. They were drilled on what the animals were and what the items were. Many parents, the report showed, were both surprised and shocked by what their children knew about the skins and animals and by their insistence on not letting the parents buy the said items.

We have a lot to learn from these examples. People in our society, like you and I, always wonder about the most effective way or ways to "reform" our society. How do we make people stop lying, stop throwing garbage in the streets, stop being rude to other motorists, eat healthy food, be a little more courteous and less obnoxious in public, say what they mean and mean what they say? Well, here is one effective way.

Let's teach the children (in our kindergartens and elementary, preparatory and second schools) the hard facts, the values and the behaviour and let them, in turn, teach their parents and relatives. Children can be very firm, insistent and authoritative. It is indeed heartening to see some private schools in Jordan focusing on the behaviour of kids and not expecting much from their parents or society. I believe they are doing the right thing, for we cannot expect much from adults and from formal institutions. Our hope of reform and a better life lies with our children, with how we bring them up and educate them.

In a society like ours where most of us have lost faith in adults, our salvation may come from our children. Let children be our teachers.

M. KAHIL

Victims need not apologise to the aggressors

By Pascal B. Karmy

I DO not know whether Mr. Rami Khouri's article, "The statecraft of morality and commercial markets" and my article "Justice is a prerequisite for peace," were published by design or coincidentally on the same day in the Jordan Times of June 27, 1995. Both articles deal substantially with apologies and forgiveness, which have been exchanged between nations or peoples who have committed wrongs or injustices against each other.

I take exception to Mr. Khouri's statement that: "simultaneously, the Palestinians and other Arabs might find it equally useful to apologise to Israel and Israelis for the aggression and hurt that we caused them over the years. We may find it appropriate at some point in the near future to recognise the pain that we inflicted on Israelis, to apologise, and to ask forgiveness."

The Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular were not the aggressors but the victims of Jewish or Israeli aggression. The armies of some Arab states entered Palestine on May 15, 1948 not to attack Israel or the Israelis but to defend the Palestinians against Zionist-Jewish slaughter of Palestinians, especially after the horrible massacre of the peaceful inhabitants of Deir Yassin village on April 9, 1948. Israel and the Israelis committed atrocious crimes against Palestinians before and after the emergence of Israel.

The 1967 war was an aggressive war launched by Israel against Egypt, Jordan and Syria for expansion and aggrandisement of Israel. It is now admitted by Israeli leaders including the radical Begin himself before he died, that the late Nasser had never intended to attack Israel. The 1973 war launched by Egypt and Syria and supported by Jordan was a war of liberation to liberate Egyptian and Syrian territories occupied by Israel in 1967. Should Egypt and Syria apologise to Israel for this war of liberation after Israel had stubbornly refused to withdraw from those territories notwithstanding several United Nation Security Council Resolutions. Certainly not, just as the U.S.A., France and Britain will not apologise to Germany for attacking it in World War II to liberate European states from German occupation. To argue otherwise would be absurd.

The Palestinians were all the time on the defensive, resisting Jewish aggression and Israel's occupation of their territory in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Any acts committed by the Palestinians against Israel or the Israelis fall within the ambit of legitimate resistance against the occupier as recognised under international law. Thus, Palestinians are neither morally nor legally obliged to apologise for anything to Israel or the Israelis. Can anyone, for example, ask the French resistance people to apologise to Germany or the Germans for having killed German soldiers during the German occupation of France in World War II. The same principle applies to the Dutch or Belgian or Danish resistance people who fought against the German occupation of their respective countries. By the same token, one cannot in good conscience ask the Palestinians to apologise to Israel or the Israelis for having caused the death of Israelis or for the hurt and injury caused to them in the course or because of the Israeli-Jewish occupation of their land.

Israel was all along and still is dealing with the Palestinians by way of killing, torturing, imprisoning and insulting them and destroying by missiles the houses of young resistance fighters. Did not Mr. Begin describe the Palestinian guerrillas as "four-legged" animals and did not Etan, the former Israel army chief of staff; call the Palestinians 'cockroaches.' Did not Yitzhak Rabin himself order his soldiers to break the bones of young Palestinians?

Will Israel concede or relinquish to the Palestinians one inch of the Palestinian territory in East Jerusalem? If a Jordanian is originally from, say Arab Nazareth or its suburbs, will Israel apologise to him and give him back his house or his land. Or if a Palestinian owns a house or land in the still existing Arab villages west or south of Jerusalem, such as Malha, Beit Iksa, Ain Karem, or if he owns a house in West Jerusalem itself, such as in Qaramon, Tal Piot, Upper and Lower Baqa' Quarters, will Israel give him back his property? Israel will apologise for nothing and give back nothing. By contrast, some of the Jews of Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland and other East European countries, are getting back some of their land or houses or will soon get them back thanks to the Zionist and U.S. pressures on those countries.

In a nutshell, no matter from which angle we examine the conflict at its inception between Israel and the Palestinians or subsequently between Israel and the Arab states, one reaches the conclusion that the Palestinians and the Arabs were the victims. Their acts of resistance or misnomer "aggression" against Israeli occupation of Palestine and other Arab territories are legitimate under customary and conventional international laws.

Palestinians put out more West Bank flags

The outlines of the Oslo pact are gradually being realised, writes **Patrick Cockburn** in occupied Jerusalem

BY THE end of this year the Palestinian flag will fly over six cities in the West Bank with a combined population of more than 300,000. Israeli troops will pull back from places they captured in 1967 and fought for in the intifada, probably never to return.

The general principles of the 1993 Oslo accord are gradually turning into reality on the ground though distrust on both sides is producing a chequer-board of conflicting jurisdictions. Many Palestinians fear they are being confined to isolated Bantustans, while Israelis fear the autonomous areas will be havens for suicide bombers and Islamic militant gunmen.

After talks to be completed by July 25, the shape of Israeli redeployment is becoming clear. The senior PLO negotiator, Abu Alaa, says Israeli troops will start to pull out from the cities a month after the agreement is signed and complete their withdrawal 22 to 25 days before the Palestinian elections.

The date for the election of a Palestinian council has yet to be agreed, although it is likely to be in November. Israel wants it to number 50 members, to make it look more like a local authority, while the Palestinians want 100 representatives, to emphasise its claim to be a legislature. There is also disagreement about whether people from (occupied) Jerusalem can vote in the city or stand in the elections for the council.

Palestinians are conscious of what they are not getting. Out of the 5,600 square kilometres of the West Bank, Israel is withdrawing from little more than 200 square kilometres. "Given Israeli demands on security, water, settlements and Jerusalem, there is not much left for us," said Khalil Toufakji, a Palestinian geographer. Under present plans, said Khalili Shikaki, a political scientist, "the map of the West Bank is going to look ridiculous."

But the shift in power is greater than is evident from the lines drawn on the map. The Palestinians' greatest strength on the ground is that they number more than one million on the West Bank, while there are only 140,000 Jewish settlers. Since the start of the intifada in 1987, it has been evident that, even with full geographical control, Israeli rule could only be exerted by force. With six of the main Palestinian cities under control of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat, the PLO chief, will effectively control the 450 villages and towns where a majority of the Palestinians on the West Bank live.

Where will this leave the settlers? Their presence has been one of the chief impediments to redeployment. In two cities, Bethlehem and Ramallah, there will be Israeli-PLO patrols until bypass roads are completed for the settlers. Elsewhere, across the West Bank, bulldozers are cutting new roads to allow, for instance, settlers from the north to bypass Nablus.

Hebron is a special case. It was the slaughter of 29 worshippers in the Ibrahimi Mosque in the city by Baruch Goldstein, a settler from nearby Kiryat Arba, early last year which first soured the post-Oslo optimism. But the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, said: "We will not prevent 80,000 to 100,000 Palestinians (in Hebron) from voting in elections because of 415 Israelis."

Another massacre is still quite possible as the settlers feel the ground shifting under their feet, but militant settlers are thinner on the ground that would appear from the figures. Daoud Kuttab, a Palestinain comentator, says "many settlements are like hotel bedrooms. People go there to sleep, but they work and do everything else in Israel."

The greatest Palestinian fear is that they will find checkpoints choking access to their towns and cities.

Hisham Awartani, head of the department of economics at An Najah University in Nablus, said: "I keep telling people not to be surprised as they were in Gaza and Jericho. If there are checkpoints so people cannot enter the city, it will spell disaster to Nablus."

He said that when he visits Jericho, which gained autonomy last year, he has to pass through two checkpoints: "I wouldn't shop there" — *The Independent.*

Weekender

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SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Some hope, some wait, and others take the plunge

Last week in Geneva, Her Majesty Queen Noor was invited to join "prominent personalities from around the world who have been effective in promoting peace and stability in their countries" for the "Musiciuns of the World" concert. Held to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations and under the patronage of President of the Swiss Confederation Kaspar Villiger and Secretary General of the United Nations Boutros Ghali, the concert was conducted by world renowned maestro Sir George Solti. Sir George personally selected the members of the orchestra from among the world's finest musiciuns to play Rossini's "William Tell Overture:, Bartok's "Concerto for Orchestra," and Beethoven's "Fidelio: The ultimate scene," -- all three pieces "chosen because they symbolise the ideals of the United Nations: heroism, peace and hope."

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Hope is a "can do" team: *The prime minister has been pondering it for months, but only now did he have time to do it. We are talking here of the reorganising of the press office at the prime ministry. The office has been nearly empty since the move to the Ministry of Information by the prime minister's special adviser on media affairs, Rafaa' Shahin, and the departure much earlier of Mohammad Saeed Bermament, the prime minister's press secretary, to become director of news at Jordan Television. The two vacancies have now been filled, but not necessarily in the same capacity, by two of our colleagues from Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, Omar Abanda and Ghadeer Taher. Omar Abanda will be in charge of local and Arab press dealings. As director of the news department at the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and as a senior editor at Al Rai, Mr. Abanda brings 24 years of media experience to his new post. He graduated from Ain Shams University in Cairo in 1970 with a degree in law and receive a higher diploma in media studies from the University of Jordan in 1981. Despite his strong attachment to Al Rai, Mr. Abanda is more likely to leave his post at that newspaper to meet the requirements of what he expects to be a highly demanding job at the prime ministry. Ms. Taher was educated in the U.S. and obtained a B.A. in a double major (political science and English literature) from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Since returning to Jordan in 1988, Ms. Taher has worked at Radio Jordan, the Jordan Times and for ARD (German Radio). She has free-lanced as a reporter for Newsweek and the Boston Globe and she was one of the original team to contribute to the publishing of "Issues, Facts and Figures; A Guide," published by the Jordan Media Group as a press kit for the 1991 Middle East Peace Conference in Madrid. Her most recent works on the press are articles on what needs to be done to strengthen the media performance in the democratic era and the possibility of privatising radio and television in Jordan, both stemming from a conference on the role of the media held recently at the University of Jordan. Ms. Taher then, will be responsible for dealing with the international press. Many would agree, it was worth the wait.*

Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Wednesday takes part in a mountain climbing exercise in a segment of the Silver Stage of the Crown Prince Award activities in Rajeb area of Ajloun. Wednesday's activities included dismantling weapons, food preparation and environmental protection projects. A total of 63 young women students from around the Kingdom participated in the days activities.

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Eye on reciprocating: *When President of the International College in Beirut (IC) Gerrit Keator visited Jordan late last fall, a small group of Jordanian alumni were rounded up by Peto Seed Production Manager Issa Halabi, a devout IC graduate, to meet with the president. It was then decided that if the group could be expanded and registered as an association, its activities would be conducted with the government seal of approval and its pursuits would be that much more facilitated. That done, alumni Hatem Salem, Issa Halabi, Ali Husry, Fadi Ghandour, Ali Malhasm, Jumana Kawar, Said Darwazeh, Samer Jabi, and Tarek Zoubi filed for registration, and in late June the nascent International College Alumni Club - Jordan convened its first general assembly to elect its administrative committee charged with organising club activities including "giving something back to Jordan, which has given us so much." According to newly-elected club president Hatem Salem, the club has collected the names of 98 to 100 alumnus and are eagerly seeking to locate them so that they might join the ranks of their fellow IC schoolmates. Mr. Hatem, a class of '65 IC graduate, a graduate of the American University of Beirut (AUB) and a founder as well of the AUB Alumni Club in Jordan, believes that "as an 'educated people' the members of the club can offer something to benefit society here at home.". Working towards that goal then will be Vice President Jumana Kawar, a freelance economic consultant, Treasurer Issa Halabi of Peto Seed, Secretary Nadim Kattan of A.A.. Kattan and Sons Co. (timber merchants), Tarek Zoubi of Arab Drip (agricultural irrigation equipment), Dina Said of Amman National School, Razan Baddour, Sirene Hikmat of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Nasser Tabbaa of Al Amin Medical Industries and Supplies Co. and Ali Al Husry of Hikma Pharmaceuticals. The club would appear progressive enough, considering its substantial representation of women on its administrative committee. So when the club plans its family barbecue in the fall, we should be seeing equanimity in force at the salad tables and BBQ pits.*

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Living by bread alone: *The IC club may opt for flat breads when they read this one. Way over in Manhattan, Kansas, the American Institute of Baking -- that's "baking" not "banking" for those of you not quite awake yet -- held a conference for bakers worldwide where attendees would learn to "understand flat bread products and expand existing production lines to include the endless varieties of flat breads created from almost the entire range of cereal grains." Not to be left out, Jordanian bakers were represented by Director of Al Sufara Bakeries Adnan Hamawi. The final presentation of the three-day event was delivered by Dr. Hamawi, and titled simply, "Production of Flat Breads in Jordan at the Al Sufara Bakery. Pity we missed it because AIB Vice President of Education Darrell D. Brensing wrote Dr. Hamawi saying his presentation "was rated the highest of all the topics presented." In a business where in 1990 the wholesale pita bread (Arabic flat bread) market was estimated between $60-80 million and frozen pita bread convenience sandwich sales in the U.S. in 1991 amounted to $150 million, bakers at this conference were all eyes and ears when it came to Dr. Hamawi's presentation, complete with a video of the Al Sufara operations and the automated line producing flat breads. It appears he taught them a thing or two about making dough.*

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Popeye vs. Ronald: *Perhaps Dr. Hamawi could have served Popeyes proprietors well when they opened their new fast-food establishment in Shmeisani's Haya Commercial Centre and were overwhelmed by the crowds racing in to try the famous chain's fried chicken, shrimp, fish and biscuits. On opening day some customers said they came away minus the bisquits. But, days later, the popularity of the new eatery along with positive customer critiques on the quantity and quality of the food seems to have accelerated the management into dishing out those high-caloric yummies in a smoother assembly line fashion. The, owners have even distributed a "Popeyes customer feedback survey," so it is evident they are serious about succeeding. And if not, "junk food" addicts will be counting the weeks before another western take away magnate makes its Jordan debut. Hot on Popeyes' trail is none other than Ronald McDonald. Entrepreneur Omar Toukan has taken the first Jordan franchise of the mighty hamburger maker and will be installing the world renown "golden arches" somewhere in Amman very soon. Neither Popeyes nor McDonalds are likely to risk such ventures if they were not assured of a sufficiently lucrative business, so ger ready for the "food fights."*

Jennifer Hamarneh

Lowfat cookbooks fatten store shelves

By Thomas Witom
Reuter

CHICAGO — In or coming to bookstores near you, "Lighter, Quicker, Better," "Lowfat In Nothing Flat," "Healthy Indulgences," "The Best Low Fat No Sugar Bread Machine Cookbook Ever" and "365 delicious low-fat recipes."

Spurred by the Runaway success of "In The Kitchen With Rosie" by the personal lowfat cook of once-plump talkshow host Ophrah Winfrey, major publishing houses are in overdrive churning out low-fat, low-sugar, low-salt recipe collections.

The "Rosie" book has sold over five million copies and, as one industry was observed, "the low-fat cookbook market is far from saturated."

The genre is still doing very well, though exact sales figures on cookbooks are hard to come by, said Jeff Perlah, an associate editor at American Bookseller Magazine. Nor are all the low-fat gurus well-known restauranteurs or cooks for high-profile television talk show hosts as "Rosie" was.

Barbara Richter, a self-taught cook, found herself in charge of her family's meal preparations as a teenager in the 1960s. The Glenview, Illinois housewife developed and refined her recipes over the years and in February she published her cookbook. The initial press run was a modest 5,000 but Richter already is discussing the second printing.

"What separates my book from the pack: The recipes, though low in fat, are filled with flavour, and they coordinate well with one another," Richter said. "The food is all real."

Staples in her arsenal include herbs and spices, fruits and vegetables. When she uses cheese, she prefers asiago with a fat content 30 per cent less than that of other cheeses. Her "Mock Guac," made with green peas and fresh cilantro, has "all the appeal but none of the fat of traditional guacamole dip," she said.

Skilful substitution that maintains flavour integrity is an essential if a low-fat dish is to succeed, said Judith Jones, editor and vice president of Alfred A. Knopf Inc., a Random House subsidiary. "There's not much point in taking perfectly good foods and using substitutes that taste foul, such as making a cake with prune puree instead of butter," Jones said. "We've gotten the message about eating less fat but that doesn't mean eating no fat."

Low-fat cooking as a subject is here to stay, said Anne Bramson, an editor at Wiliam Morrow Co., who believes "there are many different ways you will see it addressed." For example, one of Morrow's new books is "Cuisine A: La Vapeur," subtitled Cooking With Steam.

Ultimately, the low-fat segment of the market will not sustain itself, said Susan Friedland, director of cookbook publishing for Harper Collins. "Nutritionists are coming around to the broader picture — low calorie diets, sensible eating habits and exercise," Friedland said. "Just to eat low fat does not guarantee a healthy diet."

Singapore searches for common code of courtesy

By Vijay Joshi
The Associated Press

SINGAPORE — After cajoling citizens for 16 years to mind their manners, Singapore is now trying to figure out what manners are.

In this multicultural society, one Singaporean's after-lunch belch may be an assault on another's sensibilities. Clearly, a common code of courtesy is called for, says the National Courtesy Council.

This has emerged with the launch this week of Singapore's annual National Courtesy Month, when the island's 3 million citizens are exhorted to smile, stand in line and give up their seats to the elderly.

But in Singapore, a mix of Chinese, Malay, Indian and Western culture, manners are no simple matter, the Courtesty Council has concluded.

So it will commission an academic organisation to determine accepted norms of courtesty for possible presentation in the 1996 campaign, council Chairman Noel Hon said.

For example, belching or spitting is fairly common and accepted among older Chinese and Indians. But the younger, more Westernised generation often wrinkles its nose at such habits.

In a nation obsessed with order and good citizenship, campaigns are a way of life. July has been Courtesy Month since 1979. This year, it coincides with a water-saving campaign complete with rationing even though there is no drought.

An anti-drugs campaign started last month. Another recent drive was a "speak Mandarin campaign" to replace Singapore's half-dozen dialects with the official Chinese language.

Past courtesty crusades were highlighted by ads and banners telling people to be punctual, let passengers alight before climbing on to vehicles, behave themselves overseas, and not overload their plates at buffets.

But a softer approach is being used this year to appeal to young people, said council Chairman Hon.

"In trying to reach out to youth, we have to be more subtle. They don't like to be talked to," he said.

On Sunday, a one-hour courtesy special on Singapore TV featured pop singers, a speech by a minister, and the slogan "courtesty. That's my kind of world."

Besides the usual hoopla of posters, pins, special awards, the "courtesy comic book" and media coverage, a "courtesy song" will be aired on TV, sung to the tune of "sleeping child" by pop group "Michael Learns To Rock."

Mr. Hon says the last two campaigns have succeeded in reducing "kiasuism," Kiasu being a Chinese word meaning "me first."

He said only 70 out of 1,000 people surveyed last month thought rudeness has increased. About 460 believed people had become more courteous and 470 saw no change.

Increasingly, technology and mass-produced slogans are filling the courtesy gap in Singapore. Elevators and newer buses feature electronic displays saying "have a nice day," and subway ticket clerks, not known to be smilers, sit behind plastic signs saying: "Courtesy. Pass it on."

Craftsmen struggle to preserve Tibetan culture

By Jeremy Clift
Reuter

DHARAMSALA, India — Penpa Dorjee sits heating black wax on a fire to sculpt a model of his next giant statue.

At 65, he is one of only three remaining Tibetan master metalworkers who can design and fabricate the large bronze and copper statues that form the centrepieces of Buddhist monasteries or temples, Tibetan exiles and scholars say.

Now, along with a team of six apprentices, he is working on a 14-foot high statue of Buddha made of beaten copper in the middle of the Norbulingka Institute, established in the foothills of the Himalayas to preserve Tibetan culture in exile.

"I fled Tibet in 1963," Dorjee says. "I felt if I stayed in Tibet then everything would be finished.

"I decided to preserve my art in exile."

Many of Dorjee's statues were destroyed in Tibet during the 1960s when hundreds of monasteries were pulled down by the Chinese Communists and monks were imprisoned or killed.

"I felt very sad inside when I heard that these monasteries had been destroyed. In the beginning I couldn't bear it," said Dorjee, amid the hammering of metal panels for the gleaming statue.

The Norbulingka Institute, named after the summer residence in Tibet of the seventh Dalai Lama built in 1754, houses three masters of Tibetan arts, including Dorjee, an artist and a master woodworker.

They teach 23 students who will carry on the ancient Tibetan traditions while living in exile in India, away from what they believe are the distortions of their art by the Chinese in Tibet.

The institute is a few miles away from where the Tibetan spiritual leader, The Dalai Lama, has formed his government in exile that is pressing for independence from Beijing.

The Dalai Lama, who turned 60 on July 6, fears that time is running out before Tibet's culture and traditions are eclipsed.

He says that with continued Chinese migration, Tibet could end up like Manchuria, which is now fully absorbed into China.

"Then you see one ancient nation with its unique cultural heritage disappear. Of course (there will be) a few Tibetans here and there, among the thousands of Chinese like in Manchuria," he told Reuters in an interview.

"Now their culture, their language has completely disappeared. So that kind of situation can happen in Tibet," adds the Dalai Lama, who fled into exile in 1959.

The theme is echoed by other Tibetan officials.

"We are losing our own culture and identity," says Kalsang Yulgial, who runs a reception centre in Dharamsala for refugees who have fled from Tibet, or come on a religious pilgrimage to be blessed by the Dalai Lama, who remains widely revered in his homeland.

"If the Chinese at this rate go on pouring into Tibet there is every chance that we will be swamped and the Tibetan identity will be lost," says 23-year-old Khenrup, a student at a Tibetan transit school near Dharamsala.

Students cross into India from Tibet and come to the school for a year or two to learn Tibetan culture and traditions, says Khenrup, who says he was imprisoned by the Chinese for two years in the early 1990s for carrying old Tibetan maps.

Western interest in religious art can help keep some of the traditions alive, although not all the artists are as conscientious as those at the Norbulingka.

"It won't die out, but it will degenerate for sure," says Kim Yeshi, a project director at the institute who is working to ensure that the correct patterns and designs are followed.

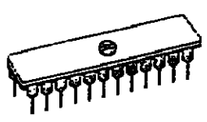
She says there's a lot of fake Tibetan art around now.

"There's so much demand for religious art that people will pay more money for lower quality," she says. "You find art in the shops with all these deities that don't exist."

Stop Press

By Jean-Claude Elias

chip talk



A printer is an indispensable companion to any personal computer (PC). Unless you bought your computer just to play electronic games, a very unlikely situation, you will feel the need to have a printer connected to it. Virtually all applications must produce a hard copy printout at some point.

In addition to the very obvious cases of word processing, desk top publishing, stock control and accounting where the printed part actually constitutes the core of the programme, most software allow users to obtain a paper copy of the work done. Countless examples can be given: Spreadsheets, drawings, reports, data base information, and so forth.

Sometimes those who buy a PC for the first time try to make do with a limited budget, postponing the purchase of a printer to a later stage, only to go back to the shop a few days after and buy any printer: Small, big, fast, expensive or regular. A computer without a printer simply is not a complete PC system.

Until 1990 the quality of printout generated by standard personal or small office machines was but a pale imitation of what could be achieved at a professional printing press. Even early laser printers were not what they are now. The only devices capable of achieving high quality results were the "daisy wheel" models. Extremely slow, unreliable, with a limited choice of fonts and characters and no graphics at all — they are practically discontinued now.

One of the essential characteristics describing printing quality is the ink density or resolution, expressed in DPI (dots per inch). Other parametres also contribute to improve the printout aspect: Ink quality, its durability, the precision of the printing mechanism, and others, but the DPI remains the most critical factor. The higher the DPI is, the better the printing quality. Printing presses work at densities ranging from 1,200 to 2,400 DPI.

Presently, low end personal machines feature resolutions around 150 DPI, mid-range equipment works at 300 DPI and high-end laser printers allow for 600 DPI. Recently, 1,200 DPI laser printers have been announced at attractive prices. Any hardware able to produce 600 DPI and higher can reasonably compete with printing press and the result wouldn't be much different from the luxury books you would buy in bookshops. Quality colour printers also have been greatly improved since 1990.

Now that quality is not a problem, what kind of work do we do with modern PC printers? In the eighties, users' concern was to obtain legible hard copy reports and aesthetically looking letters. In other words, most applications were "character oriented." Knowing that the quality of the graphics or drawings they would print would be mediocre, users would either compromise or simply avoid doing any graphic or fancy art work.

The new printers have opened a wide door to creativity. Small to medium-size companies can produce their own quality books. What used to be plain, boring text is now well-illustrated with clear, sharp graphics. Because of the possibilities it now offers, new hardware requires more personal input in terms of imagination, skills and professionalism. It is not enough having a printer capable of delivering stunning graphics, someone has to come up with the graphics on the screen before sending it to the printer.

Before the year 2000, office and home users will possess computers and printers powerful enough to compete with the best printing press, technically speaking. Their personal talent must do the rest.

Some sell trinkets, others act ethnic

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

While Jordan prepares to sell its culture, society and natural environment for consumption by visitors, we are being bombarded in the daily press with fancy images of towers, soon to be hotels.

At this time, it is only fair to wonder as to whether anyone was planning to ask the local communities who would live in the shadow of these hotels whether they approve of their form, scale, style and function?

It might only be an idea, but the involvement of local people in tourism should go beyond their involvement as guides, porters or trackers, or as providers of the usual services associated with mass tourism — waiters, sellers of arts and crafts or models for photographs. The involvement of local people should go all the way to deciding whether a project should go ahead in the first place.

It does, as it should, sadden us when some foreigners and international correspondents seem to care for our heritage more than we do. One such example is an article which appeared in the 'Architecture section of The Independent newspaper Wednesday, April 12, 1995.

The article about Petra, whose heading was The pink city's future isn't rosy was written by Paula Weidegger. In this article, she expressed her belief that Petra's future is not threatened by the increase in the number of visitors as much as by the apparent need to keep the city's visitors entertained. She traced back Petra's troubles to the time when the Bedouins camped in Petra's caves were moved out to permanent homes outside the city. She then went on to describe how at the present time, a few select Bedouin families have been invited back to live in the caves during "opening hours" so they can provide travellers with a bit of ethnic colour for their photo-sessions. Naturally, she writes, the Bedouins prefer to sell trinkets and postcards than act ethnic, but they are aware of the role they must play to keep the tourists happy.

In that same article, she went on to talk about the steel skeleton of an enormous hotel on the edge of Petra, monuments being repaired or tidied up in cement, all for the sake of tourists, and about a vast Roman forum that is being reconstructed where the 1964 Venice Charter rules out any kind of reconstruction work to sites such as Petra.

While it is also widely believed that an increase in tourism brings about an even greater increase in foreign currencies, numerous studies have pointed out to what is known as the high "foreign exchange leakage" of tourism-generated income; as much as two-thirds of the money tourists spend goes to foreign-owned tour operators, airlines, hotels and pays for imported food and drink. Normally, little money goes to local people who tend to be employed in the lower paid and menial tourist jobs and bear the adverse impacts, including disrespectful tourist behaviour, the erosion of cultural and spiritual values and extensive environmental degradation.

At the local level, attention should be paid to the people's vision of development which may or may not involve hosting tourists. In the end, our aim should be for an ecologically and a socially sustainable tourism industry.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 13

1:30 Iris-The Happy Professor

1:40 Noddy

2:00 Fireman Sam

2:15 My Secret Identity

2:50 N.B.A.

3:00 Pirates Island

3:30 Take Your Pick

4:00 I Witness Video

4:30 French Programme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Documentary — National Geographic

8:30 The Album Show

9:15 Murder She Wrote

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie — Laura Lansing Slept Here

Starring: Katherine Hepbyrn & Karen Austen

And old woman writer who lives by herself has only one chance to publish her last story: To manage living with an ordinary family in one of New York's suburbia. Can she make it?

12:00 Homicide

Friday, July 14

1:00 Read-A-Alle Deed-A-Alle

1:15 Beethoven

1:30 Why I didn't Think Of That

2:00 White Fang

2:30 Movie — Playing For Keeps

Starring: Daniel Jordano & Matthew Penn

4:00 The Crystal Maze

4:30 French Programme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 African Skies

8:00 Coach

8:30 Local Programme — Jordan Today

9:15 Wild Side

10:00 News In English

10:25 Movie — Whatever It Takes

Starring: Chris Weatherhead & Martin Balsam

The story of a Vietnam warrior who returns back home to start a new life.

12:00 The Powers That Be

Saturday, July 15

2:00 Back To The Future

2:50 Harry And the Hendersons

3:00 Road To Avonlea

4:00 Families

5:00 French Programme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Documentary — First Flights

8:00 Major Dad

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Dr. Quinn-Medicine Woman

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie: Touch Of Truth

Starring: Melissa Gilbert & Patty Duke

The moving story of a heroic child with speaking problems and his relentless battle in defending his case after being sexually abused.

Sunday, July 16

2:00 The Flintstones

2:30 The Mighty Jungle

3:00 Pugwall Summer

3:30 Movie Magic

4:00 Families

5:00 French Programme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Documentary — Tomorrow's World

8:00 Nurses

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Strathblair

10:00 News In English

10:25 Counterstrike

11:30 The Hidden Room

12:00 Grace Under Fire

Monday, July 17

2:00 Animals Of Farthing Wood

2:30 Hey Dad!

3:00 Documentary — Survival

4:00 Families

5:00 French Programme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Camp Wilder

8:00 McHale's Navy

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Harts Of The West

10:00 News In English

10:25 The Ruth Rendell's Mysteries — The Speaker Of Mandarin

11:00 Movie — Alexander The Great

Starring: Richard Burton & Fredric March

Tuesday, July 18

2:00 Captain Planet

2:30 Mantis

3:00 The Road To Avonlea

4:00 Families

5:00 French Programme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 You Bet Your Life

8:00 Piglet Files

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Urban Angel

10:00 News In English

10:25 Death Of Apartheid

11:30 New York Undercover

12:00 Keeping Up Appearances

Wednesday, July 19

2:00 Problem Child

2:30 Super Champs

3:00 Documentary — Tomorrow's World

3:30 Amazing Stories

4:00 Families

5:00 French Programme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Documentary — Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe

8:00 Anything For A Laugh

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Documentary — Blood And Belonging

10:00 News In English

10:25 Prism

10:45 The Jacksons

11:30 Not A Penny More, Not A Penny Less

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

AMAZING FACTS

- *A French native strangled his 87-year-old grandmother with a bath towel because he no longer endured her senility. He said he had committed the crime on the pretext that her survival might have been meaningless.*

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

- *Britons have become less interested in their health and pets and also never cared for spending their money on funerals or special occasions. This phenomenon resulted from the fever of gambling that has lately dominated their ways of life. This, in turn, led them to buy lottery tickets on a large scale.*

  Statistics show there are 30,000,000 Britons who took to gambling and purchasing lottery tickets worth $160,000,000 per week.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

- *A number of American scientists invented the tiniest camera ever to appear on the world market. It is only one centimetre in length and is capable of taking very small photographs.*

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

- *A pet dog used to practise bowling regularly on the roads in Michigan City.*

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— Names of Meals:	Asma'ulwajabat:
— Breakfast	Al-iftar
— Lunch	Al-ghadaa
— Dinner	Al-ashaa
— Supper	Alashaa
— Names of Games:	Asma'ul'aab
— Football	Koratul-qadam
— Basketball	Koratal'salla
— Hockey	Al-hoaky
— Tennis	Al-tins
— Volleyball	Al-kora at'taa'ira
— Baseball	Koratul'yad
— Names of Diseases:	Asma'ul amrad
— Small pox	Al-judari
— Tuberculosis	As-sul
— Plague	At'taa'oun
— Fever	Al-humma
— Measles	Al-hasba
— Cancer	As'saratan
— White	Abyad
— Red	Ahmar
— Green	Akhdar
— Blue	Azraq
— Yellow	Asfar
— Violet	Banafsaji
— Names of days:	Asma'ul ayyam
— Sunday	Al-ahad
— Monday	Al-ithnain
— Tuesday	Ath'thulatha
— Wednesday	Al-arbe'a
— Thursday	Al-khamis
— Friday	Al-Jum'aa
— Saturday	As-sabt

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

TIME FOR FUN

☆ *A voluptuous young nurse came into the doctor's inner office for the third time.*

"Doctor," she said, "I'm having trouble with that patient you told me to examine. I've taken his pulse three times now and it's beating at an incredible rate. What'll I do?"

The doctor looked at her for a moment, and said, "How old is the patient?"

"Twenty-one."

"Well, try once more, but this time button your blouse."

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

☆ *"Are your parents in, little girl?" asked the man at the door.*

"They was, but they's out now," she said.

"Tsk. Tsk. Where's your grammar?"

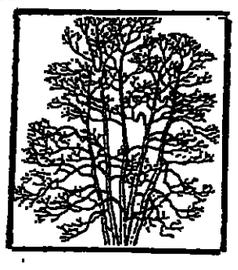
"In the kitchen doing the washing-up."

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

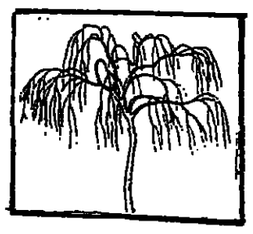
BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Name the type of tree.

(a)



(b)



(c)

2. How long is the English Channel? Who was the first woman to cross it? When?
3. What does "Out-Herod-Herod" mean?
4. What is a wharfinger?
5. When is a road said to be 'up'?
6. What are the only six exits from the Mediterranean Sea?

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

PUZZLES

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Solve the clue and insert the letters in the appropriate squares. If your solutions are correct, a twelve-letter word should appear.

Letters 4, 7, 12, 3 give a mythical herb having magical powers

Letters 8, 5, 11, 2 give a zodiacal constellation

Letters 6, 9, 10, 1 give a small, wingless bloodsucking insects

Anthony Quinn at 80 — stand back

By Ric Leyva
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Where myth meets man, you'll find Anthony Quinn.

Zorba the Greek. Mexican revolutionary. A Russian pope. American Indian. A kindly Eskimo innocent. Boxer. Carnival strongman. Scores of film roles in a 50-year career — and a pair of Oscars.

Born into abject poverty, Quinn's remarkable talent as an actor, painter, sculptor and writer earned him jobs with artistic giants ranging from Frank Lloyd Wright to Federico Fellini.

At age 80, Quinn shows few signs of slowing down.

Just pausing seems to be a problem.

"I'm very busy these days," he says, slightly out of breath as he arrives late for an interview at his Upper East Side artist's studio. "I just accepted a picture where I'm going to play an octopus."

Welcome to the wacky world of the mighty Quinn, who looks like a man 20 years younger and thinks like one half his age.

This summer, he steals scenes from Keanu Reeves as a cagey Mexican-American patriarch with a sweet tooth in A Walk In The Clouds. And his confessional autobiography One Man Tango is elbowing for bookstore shelf space.

Meanwhile, he'll be in Germany transforming himself from unhappy millionaire to eight-armed sea creature in Seven Servants.

Any silly questions about his vitality evaporated with the news two years ago that he'd fathered a child with his former secretary. The scandal ended his three-decade marriage, but gave him his beloved daughter, Antonia.

Bringing a new life into the world gave Quinn a new lease on his own.

"She amazes me with her knowledge," he says. "It's a whole new generation she's part of. There are genes upon genes upon genes that have gathered and are now ready to burst out into a whole new order."

A Picasso hangs on the wall behind him, as Quinn relaxes for a minute with an espresso, recounting tales many years old or just hours past. He easily recalls minute details of his rise in movies during Hollywood's golden age.

Anthony Quinn (left) as Zorba, and Alan Bates in the movie Zorba The Greek

The telephone never stops ringing. At one point he halts the interview in mid-response to summon his assistant and demand a rundown on his European travel plans. Afterward, he picks up right where he left off.

No subject is off-limits, even his impending divorce from wife Iolanda after more than 30 years together.

"We had no right to be married so long," he says. "Divorce is one of the most painful things there is, but it does not come out of hate. It comes from knowing you don't belong in that life any longer. It's like you were a cocoon for a while and now you're a butterfly, and you have to fly."

Born April 21, 1915, in Chihauhua, Mexico, Quinn spent his early childhood in the California's Napa Valley, where his Irish father and Mexican mother made the rounds as migrant farmworkers.

A Walk In The Clouds, set in California wine country, returned him to the vineyards and orchards that were his childhood playgrounds.

"The picture brought back a lot of memories for me of life as a young kid, and my love for the country, my love for the wild green hills," he says wistfully. "I think it was the healthiest period of my life, actually."

After weathering years of Hollywood racism and type-casting, Quinn jumped at the chance to work with director Alfonso Arau, who made Like Water For Chocolate.

"I was very anxious to work with a man of his caliber, a man with a cultural viewpoint far different than Hollywood's," Quinn says. "I was thrilled to be part of it: Studio picture, Latino cast, Mexican director. I adored it."

It took more than one single stroke of luck to launch Quinn's career.

The first was winning a high school art contest with architectural plans for a marketplace. The prize was the break of a lifetime in itself: A job with Wright.

Offended by Quinn's thick accent, the legendary architect sent the young man to acting school for voice training. Later, when an actor got sick, Quinn stepped in. More stage work brought a Hollywood offer. In 1936, Quinn got his first speaking part in Parole.

He went to land a role in Cecil B. Demille's 1937 epic The Plainsman, Quinn played an Indian, the first of many such roles for him. His first Academy Award for Supporting Actor came in 1952 for Viva Zapata, playing opposite Marlon Brando.

Quinn earned another Supporting Actor Oscar in 1956 for Lust For Life, playing painter Paul Gauguin opposite Kirk Douglas' Vincent Van Gogh.

But his signature role was the fiery and lusty Zorba in 1964's Zorba The Greek.

"I've played just about every nationality there is to play in motion pictures, except Swedish," Quinn jokes. "And I'm nowhere near done yet."

Before the coffee is gone, it's time to move on for a quick photo session. Just then, gossip maven Cindy Adams, the Quinn family friend who broke the story of his love child in her tabloid column, drops by unexpectedly.

He situates her on a sofa and returns to face the camera lens. The doorbell rings again, but Quinn lets his assistant get it. Sitting by his paints and brushes, his smile comes alive in the late afternoon light as the shutter does backflips.

Meanwhile, in the foyer, two prospective art buyers listen nervously as Quinn's beleaguered assistant explains that he's running late, pleading to keep them from leaving.

Several rolls of film later, Quinn hustles back to Adam's side, waving at the pair by the door.

Quinn clearly loves the full house and all the attention. His face shining with childlike joy, he gives full credit to his baby daughter.

"Suddenly, this little girl came into my life," he says. "She accepts me for what I am. She doesn't know whether she's eating beans or caviar. She's eating. She's happy. She loves to sing. She loves to dance. She doesn't need an orchestra.

"I see this in her and I say, 'my God, that is how life should be lived.'"

Charles Aznavour concentrates on music

By Mary Campbell
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Charles Aznavour has taken up hobbies — "I've tried everything," he says. But the famed singer of French chanson finds at 71 that the only activity that fully engages him is music.

At home in Geneva, he writes music every morning. When he gives concerts — he recently finished a 103-concert stint — all the songs he sings are his, either totally or written in collaboration. Most are romantic or despairing or nostalgic.

Aznavour doesn't feel despairing, nostalgic or too old to sing romantic songs. In his song, The Age For Loving, he says, "I explain there is no age limit for being in love."

Probably his best-known song in America is Yesterday When We Were Young, which country singer Roy Clark recorded in 1969.

Angel Records released his latest album, You And Me, in June, while Aznavour gave concerts in the United States.

It isn't difficult to sing the same songs — Yesterday When We Were Young, The Old-Fashioned Way ("Les Plaisirs Demodes"), Happy Anniversary, She, Isobel — year after year, Aznavour says.

"Just to be happy to do it, not to complain inside," is how he explains continuing to sing with feeling. "Nobody forces me to work. I work because I want to. I enjoy the stage, oh, yes. It is a space I like."

Aznavour now stands nearly alone as a French singer of chanson, the songs that are part of the French way of life.

Maurice Chevalier, Yves Montand, Georges Brassens, Jacques Brel, Tino Rossi and Jean Sablon all have died. Charles Trenet, 82, and Gilbert Becaud, 67, still perform in France. Younger French singers tend to be in the rock tradition.

Aznavour is still popular, he thinks, "because I haven't tried to do anything that I'm something else than I am. The lyrics are very important. The young generation finds through my songs something they heard in their family home before they come to see me."

Aznavour finished 98 concerts in France in late April, including six weeks in a 4,000-seat theatre in Paris, plus three concerts in Switzerland and two in Belgium. His most popular songs in France right now are about youth, he says, Yesterday When I Was Young, La Boheme and Sa Jeunesse (The Wine Of Youth).

Last month, he appeared in Los Angeles, Miami and New York. In August, he'll give concerts in Canada, Brazil and France. "Then I'm making a movie for TV, which I do very often," he says. "If our agents agree, I will do a French movie in India. That is not sure yet." Aznavour has been in more than 50 films plus many more TV films.

Becoming a star in other countries after you've made it at home is work, Aznavour says. "And you have to be very humble. When you open in a new country, no matter what kind of star you are in your country, you have to start over again."

His first goal, he says, is to be understood by the public. So, he learned English, Italian and Spanish. His first language was Armenian, at home with his family in Paris. His second language was French.

He writes lyrics in French and delights in using unusual words.

"It is my discipline and pleasure. I'm a little crazy for that. When you're a self-made writer and it didn't come from school, I think we're more difficult with ourselves than others."

"When I'm home, I write every day, bad or good," Aznavour says. "You can't write good every day. Sometimes you feel, 'this is great.' The day after, you think, 'it's awful.' I don't fix it. I start another one. You can keep the idea. You have to do it all over again."

Aznavour started singing and acting as a child to help support his family, who ran an Armenian restaurant in Paris. He shortened his name from Aznavourian to Aznavour to fit on theatre marquees.

He had a hard time getting accepted. Critics didn't think he presented a romantic image and didn't like his songs of despair. Aznavour wrote about despair because, he says, "I used to see despair around me. I felt it was in books and movies but not in songs. I didn't invent it. I only put it in songs."

Edith Piaf, the French chanteuse, heard him on the radio when he was 22 and engaged him as an opening act for a tour and to write some songs for her.

His early struggles, the singer says, "are not important. I made it. I don't think back over my life. The past is not important to me. I'm not somebody who says it was better yesterday."

Charles Aznavour

Lebanon's National Museum rises from civil war ashes

By Andrew Tarnowski
Reuter

BEIRUT — Amid the bustle of reconstruction in Beirut, workers are repairing Lebanon's war-battered National Museum that was among the most important archaeological museums in the Middle East.

Workmen are fitting new stone blocks to repair shell holes in the honey-coloured facade, filling in thousands of bullet holes and securing doors and windows that have been open to the elements for years.

The museum has not exhibited its treasures since closing at the outbreak of the 1975-90 civil war. For 15 years it was a frontline firing post for rival militias and gave its name to the most famous green line crossing point between Beirut's warring Christian east and mainly Muslim western sectors.

Camille Asmar, the director, hopes to open the first temporary exhibition by the end of the year, once the one billion Lebanese pounds ($616,000) task of repairing and securing the exterior is completed.

He has decided not to wait until the interior is restored, a job that will cost another $3-4 million.

"We have to open at least something for the public, to show the public, especially the young generation, what a museum is, what objects we have inside the museum," Mr. Asmar said.

He plans to exhibit only the biggest treasures which were never removed for safekeeping during the war, unlike the museum's ancient jewellery — the biggest collection in the Middle East — which is still in the vaults of the Central Bank.

But before he can exhibit the treasures, Mr. Asmar must break open the massive concrete encasements that protected them during the war.

The tomb-like blocks enclose statues, sphinxes and sarcophagi from Egypt, Rome and Phoenicia — the Lebanon of antiquity.

They include the colossus of Byblos and the Sarcophagus of Ahiram, an eighth century BC king of Byblos, north of Beirut, inscribed with the first known traces of the Phoenician alphabet — the origin of western alphabets.

"When we finish restoring the facade we will open the cement blocks and do the first restoration of the objects and the inventory, and we are preparing an exhibition to show the public all the large objects we have in the museum," Mr. Asmar said.

"There is a new chemical we can use that helps break down the cement. We drill a hole in the casing, insert the chemical and in 24 hours the cement begins to crumble," he added.

He also plans to exhibit for the first time 13th century mummies found during the civil war in caves in north Lebanon, showing the clothes people wore 700 years ago.

Other treasures awaiting exhibition for the first time in Lebanon are 575 gold, ivory and ceramic Phoenician artefacts found by German archaeologists at Kamid Al Loz in the eastern Bekaa Valley between 1963 and the early 1980s.

Mr. Asmar brought back the treasures this year from Germany's Saarbruecken University where they were restored and kept safe since 1978.

The artefacts, dating back to 1,500 B.C., are so important that they were exhibited in eight cities in Germany, 15 books were written about them and five are in preparation.

In the museum's laboratory Mr. Asmar shows suitcases of Roman and Byzantine artefacts recently seized by customs officers at Beirut Airport from people trying to smuggle them abroad.

They, too, will one be among the museum's exhibits.

Some treasures looted from Lebanon during the war are also being retrieved, thanks to Interpol, watchful Lebanese diplomats and friends of Lebanon in the art world.

Last year Mr. Asmar went to Brussels to recover two objects from a Phoenician tomb in Byblos. Now he is about to bring from Switzerland four fifth century B.C. marble statues of children from the temple of the Phoenician god Eshmun near Sidon.

Another marble statue was recently spotted at Sotheby's auction house in London and will be retrieved, Mr. Asmar said.

Even some of the 42 cases of exhibits damaged by fire when a shell hit a museum store room in 1982 may be restored in the new laboratory where restoration expert Isabelle Skaff is working to save them.

"It's very difficult work. It's not like ordinary art restoration work," said Ms. Skaff, who trained at London University and is the only restorer the museum can afford to employ.

"I need four or five more trained workers," said Ms. Skaff, who wants to bring former colleagues from London. "The trouble is we need "20,000 to bring them over for four months' work, to show we are achieving something, but there is no money available."

Barcelona shows wide- ranging postwar art exhibit

By Stephen Wade
The Associated Press

BARCELONA (AP) — Spain's neutrality in World War II, which resulted in the country's isolation from postwar Europe, is serving as the inspiration for a wide-ranging exhibit tracing two decades of European art produced after the devastation.

"Postwar Europe 1945-65: Art After The Deluge," is essentially four shows in one — painting, sculpture, photography, design and architecture — with none of the big names from the period missing and many unfamiliar ones introduced.

"An exhibition in Spain — a non-belligerent during the war — gave us a distance in judging what happened afterwards without being accused of a bias," said Luis Monreal, director general of Spain's Caixa Foundation, southern Europe's largest private foundation.

The Caixa-sponsored exhibition was three years in the making at a cost of $2.5 million, bringing together 527 works from 16 countries.

"We're taking this anniversary as an opportunity to talk about peace and the building of contemporary Europe," Mr. Monreal said.

Spain was the birthplace of pre- and postwar European art — Pablo Picasso and Joan Miro, both of whom are well represented in the exhibition.

Battered by its own three-year civil war that ended in 1939, Spain was officially neutral, during World War II and cut off from the rest of democratic Western Europe until dictator Francisco Franco died in 1975.

As Spanish historian Josep Fontana writes in the catalogue, "one of the major features of Spain during the 20th century is that it has often been out of step with the history of the rest of Europe."

Added Mr. Monreal: "Our isolation in the period gives Spanish people a curiosity to know more about the Europe we see now and how it came to be."

A careful look at the exhibition could easily take three days. Painting and sculpture is housed in the 100-year-old Caixa Foundation Cultural Centre, a striking art nouveau building well worth its own visit.

The photography, architecture and design portions are set up in two separate facilities. The exhibition remains in Barcelona until July 30 before moving to Vienna's Kuenstlerhaus from Sept. 10 to Dec. 10. The Austrian government is a co-sponsor.

The show has been criticised for including only one American artist — Alexander Calder. General curator Thomas M. Messer defended the collection.

"In the United States, the war touched the soldiers, but daily life didn't suffer any great transformations due to the conflict," Mr. Messer said. "Besides, American artistic expression is very well known because of the leadership the country had after the war. European contributions have been left on the sidelines."

The first painting a visitor sees is Picasso's 1951 Massacre In Korea, which bears a striking resemblance to Guernica, his 1937 Civil War masterpiece.

Curator Lorand Hegyi centres the painting section around Picasso, calling him the "moral example... and trail-blazing innovator" of pre- and postwar painting. Masters of the first half of the century such as Georges Braque and Fernand Leger are joined with postwar artists including Jean Dubuffet, Alberto Giacometti and Francis Bacon.

Giacometti also features prominently in the sculpture exhibit. His tall, thin and wizened sculptures, writes Mr. Messer, "sounded the spiritual chords" after the war.

The photography exhibit is a mix between documentary and creative and experimental photography. Robert Capa and Herbert List depict the social conditions wrought by the war. Later photographers like Bill Brandt and Liselotte Koppitz produce unusual, experimental compositions.

Architecture and design are divided by country. The British section deals with the Scandanavian architectual influences on Britain's postwar welfare state. The German portion focuses on the massive rebuild of the country.

Way to defeat wrinkles

By Dr. Medhat Abdulmalik

Wrinkles are unavoidable. As we grow older our bodies lose calcium and bone, and the fat pads under the skin diminish. Skin sags and gets too loose.

Our bodies start to produce less of the two protein strands in the dermis, the lower layer of our skin. One protein, elastin, is a rubber-band-like fibre that helps the skin bounce back; the other is collagen that forms the foundation of our skin. Our expression lines or laugh lines become permanant because our skin is not firm, strong or elastic enough to return to its smooth supple texture.

The familiar changes in the skin of the face of the elderly which are called wrinkles are classified into two types according to cause.

Endogenous aging, assumed to be due to aging process of the skin, and exogenous aging assumed to be due to the longterm cummulative effect of the ultra-violet radiation mainly from the sun, on the upper layers of the skin.

Research studies show that endogenous aging in people 50-90 years old is more subtle and accounts for less than 20 per cent of the wrinkle phenomenon; while wrinkles caused by the harmful solar effect on the skin are responsible for more than 80 per cent of the aging process.

New methods in fighting wrinkles show promise but there are risks.

Simple fix

The over-the-counter cream, Alpha Hydroxy Acid (AHA), includes lactic acid from milk, malic acid from fruit, and glycolic acid from sugar cane — all natural, mild substances long used for skin care. AHA's help slough off dried damaged cells on the skin's top layer exposing fresher rejuvenated skin. Studies show AHA stimulate production of mucin, the substance that fills in between callagen fibres. The result is that lower skin layers thicken, and some doctors say, fine surface lines smooth out.

Experts argue about exactly how much good AHA's actually do. In an Ohio State University study a 12 per cent solution of AHA was applied twice daily for eight weeks to one side of 21 volunteers' faces. Wrinkles on the treated side were less apparent in 15 volunteers; and 18 had softer smoother skin. AHA may occasionally cause redness or peeling, and people with a pre-existing skin condition such as severe acne, or who have a family history of eczema, should consult a dermatologist before using them.

For most people they are considered risk-free although the effects of long-term use are still being studied.

Last year U.S., consumers spent more than $300 million for over the counter AHA creams. However some of these products don't contain enough acid, as an eight per cent or higher concentration is required to counteract wrinkles.

Watch, for example, for labels that claim eight per cent of a 70 per cent solution.

Then there is retinoic acid, or Retin-A, a Vitamin-A derivative also used to treat acne. It gets rid of fine wrinkles by peeling off dead cells to make way for healthy ones, and increases the turnover of those cells. Retin A also stimulates the production of new collagen and elastin fibres and increases the blood flow to the skin. The result is a smoother, more supple skin.

Available by prescription only, Retin A does not cost too much, although the production is not yet FDA-approved for use on wrinkles. It is believed to be safe, but it can cause irritated or scaly skin and it does make the skin sensitive to sunlight. So you must use it with a sunscreen.

Deeper peel

Doctors can paint 30 or 70 per cent concentrations of glycolic acid on a patient's face to peel off a thin layer of skin, which will cause a superficial burn. Healing takes a few days.

A medium peel keeps wrinkles away for three to five years, a deep peel, about 10 years.

More risky than chemical peels, dermabrasions resurface the skin mechanically using a power-driven instrument that rotates at high speed. The sanding procedure, which requires an anesthetic, is usually done on large areas, e.g.: The forehead, cheeks or entire face, and can be performed in an hour; complete healing takes six weeks to six months and the results two to 10 years.

Drawbacks

Peels will not help sags or deep wrinkles. They can cause itching and colour changes in skin. Doctors have scarred patients' faces with chemical peels because they lacked experience in the field of cosmetic surgery.

For 20 years, doctors have been plumping wrinkles with collagen — a cowhide derivative similar to our own human protein — in a 10 to 15 minute procedure. The body does re-absorp the collagen within 4 months to a year. Yet with repeated injections the body's own collagen, may accumulate around the artificial collagen, and gradually build up enough to fill the wrinkle for a longer time.

A Use For Botulism

To eliminate the wrinkles between the eyes doctors have tried Botox — an extract of the deadly toxin that causes botulism.

Doctors inject Botox into the muscle, whose contraction causes the wrinkle. Within 3 to 5 days Botox blocks the nerve so the muscle cannot move. The wrinkles disappear for about four months. The procedure, however, has not yet been FDA approved for that purpose.

Prevention

By far the best way to fight wrinkles is to:

—STOP SMOKING: It has been found that heavy smokers were five times more likely than non-smokers to have excessive wrinkles. Experts theorize that smoking reduces the blood supply and oxygen to the skin, and perhaps affect collagen and elastin.

— USE SUNSCREEN: Regularly, since nearly 80 to 90 per cent of all skin changes, associated with aging, are the result of sun exposure.

— NO MORE CRASH DIETS: Lose weight slowly. If you lose five to 10 pounds in a short period of time the changes will be especially noticeable in your face.

— GET PLENTY OF EXERCISE: Anything that relieves stress is helpful.

— USE MOISTURISER: Though they can't remove lines, they keep the skin from dehydration.

Remember that wrinkles are part of your life journey. They mark character-building, inner beauty and experience. Besides a few lines can enhance your appearance.

The writer is a practising dermatologist. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Newest U.S. 'drive-through' endangers newborns

By Deborah Zabarenko
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Drive-through restaurants, drive-through carwashes and drive-through liquor stores have been joined on the American scene by an alarming phenomenon: Drive-through births.

Mothers and babies who in past years might have stayed in hospital for several days after birth are now being discharged after less than 24 hours, with occasionally disastrous results. Many doctors blame cost-conscious insurance companies for the shortened hospital stays.

"We're definitely seeing more babies released very early, particularly those released 24 hours or less after birth," said Dr. Mahiri MacDonald, head of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Children's National Medical Centre in Washington. "These are kids at risk of death or brain damage."

The babies Dr. MacDonald sees are the extreme examples such as untreated cases of newborn jaundice, a common live ailment that can cause permanent retardation, and advanced cases of dehydration, possibly caused by inadequate breast-feeding.

Both conditions, Dr. MacDonald and other doctors say, might have been detected and treated effectively if mothers and newborns had stayed in hospital a bit longer or had a pediatric check-up sooner than the customary two-week visit.

A recent analysis by the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) showed that between 1970 and 1992, the median length of hospital stay for women who delivered vaginally decreased from nearly four days to just over two. Women who delivered by Caesarean section stayed in hospitals nearly eight days in 1970 by 1992, it had dropped to four days.

To combat this trend, New Jersey and Maryland have passed laws providing for 48-hour hospital stays after uncomplicated births and 96-hour stays for Caesareans although mothers and babies would be released earlier if they and their doctors agree and if there is early follow-up care.

Similar federal legislation was introduced in the U.S. Senate on June 27 and has bipartisan support.

The push for longer maternity hospital stays has received backing in recent weeks from the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).

Shuddering at the term "drive-through delivery," the ACOG pointed directly at insurance companies for pushing the short-stay trend. "At a time when obstetrical delivery is the most frequent cause of hospitalisation in the United States, the shortening of a woman's hospital stay holds obvious appeal to insurers," ACOG said in a statement.

U.S. health insurance companies look askance at the new laws, maintaining that treatment decisions should be left to the physician, in consultation with the insurer and with a view to keeping costs down.

"There are tremendous pressures to deliver services in the hospital that can only be delivered in the hospital and to release patients as soon as possible," said Kylanne Green, speaking for the Health Insurance Association of America, which represents 230 commercial insurers. "We don't believe that a 48-hour stay that's legislated is the answer to the problems presented by these physicians."

Many doctors say they feel caught between the insurers' push to cut costs and their desire to provide optimum care to newborns, where potentially life-threatening problems often are not apparent until days after a drive-through delivery.

One Washington-area pediatrician, Dr. Leah Brasch, said her office has revised its examination schedule to put the first post-partum appointment at three to four days after birth, instead of two weeks, in response to "drive-throughs."

"I find it really kind of scary," Dr. Brasch said. "If you have a baby that's not doing great but there isn't anything really wrong, the parents feel they're under pressure not to stay in the hospital... I don't think it's good for society as a whole."

Drugs made of fat bubbles to 'target' disease poised for approval

By Lauran Neergaard
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Robert Zackin was tied to an oxygen tank and given three months to live. Two years later, the Boston man bicycles to work every day — thanks to an experimental drug made of fat bubbles that scientists think knew how to travel right to the cancer attacking his lungs.

Now, these liposomal drugs are poised to begin hitting the market, touted as potent agents that may attack a number of killers without the side effects of standard therapy.

"There's a lot of reason to believe this may be very valuable technology," said Dr. Michael Ross of Nexstar Pharmaceuticals Inc., whose drug Daunoxome treated Zackin's pulmonary kaposi's sarcoma, a cancer that strikes mostly AIDS patients.

Liposomes are microscopic fat bubbles used to coat highly toxic medicines. Scientists believe the fat coating allows these drugs to travel to the sites of illness without leaking into other cells and poisoning them along the way. Thus, doctors could deliver more drug without severe side effects.

A Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory committee has recommended the government approve two of these limposomal drugs — Daunoxome and, under special conditions, Liposome Technology Inc.'s DOX-SL — to treat kaposi's sarcoma. The FDA usually follows advisory committee recommendations, meaning the first liposomal drug could be available by the end of the year.

And four companies are furiously testing liposomal agents in Americans who have everything from breast and lung cancer to killer fungal diseases.

"This new delivery system holds a lot of promise," said FDA medical officer Dr. Teresa Wu. "There is a need in the medical community for this."

The technology could be used to attack a wide array of disease, agreed Dr. Lorraine Cazenave of the National Cancer Institute. But she cautioned that whether the drugs target disease as neatly as predicted remains unproven. "We do have to do specific studies to mark where they go and make sure they're reaching their target," she said.

Indeed, how the drugs "know" where to go is novel. Take Daunoxome, fat bubbles encapsulating the highly toxic cancer drug Daunorubicin, which causes baldness, ulcers and even serious damage to the heart and skin.

Daunoxome capsules are injected into arteries, travelling through the body's tiniest blood vessels, Nexstar's Dr. Ross explained. These vessels leak at the site of tumours or inflammation, allowing the liposomes to slip out. There, the fat is absorbed into the tumour, freeing the medicine inside — where it eats the diseased cells.

A study of 227 advanced kaposi's sarcoma patients found those who received Daunoxome lived 365 days, vs. 339 days for patients on standard therapy. More significant was that Daunoxome patients suffered 10 times fewer side effects than those on standard therapy, said Colorado-based Nexstar.

"To me, quality of life is the most important thing," said Zackin, who failed standard therapy but has fended off his cancer for two years on Daunoxome, without the balding that plagued his earlier treatments. "I just was healthier."

In fact, 25 per cent of cancer patients give up their treatment because the side effects feel as bad as the illness — and sometimes doctors withdraw treatment because the drug has built up to dangerous levels in vital organs.

Two liposomal drugs to fight killer fungal diseases that strike tens of thousands of people a year have recently been approved in Europe, and Sweden last month approved Daunoxome, the world's first anti-cancer liposome available for sale.

The Liposome Co. of Princeton, New Jersey, plans to seek FDA approval this year for its anti-fungal limposome. It has another liposome in final testing as a first-line therapy for breast cancer. Competitors are also testing liposomes against other cancers, from lung to colon, and as antibiotics.

Firms are banking heavily on Liposomes' success. They've spent tens of millions of dollars developing liposomes since 1986 — but Nexstar proved they can turn a profit when its anti-fungal Liposome Ambisome earned $50 million in Europe last year.

"These are extremely difficult diseases to work with," said TLC Vice President Brooks Boveroux. "But the markets we're looking at for these drugs... can be $500 million plus."

Scientists closing in on gene for bed-wetting

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Scientists say they've found the approximate location of a gene for persistent bed-wetting in children.

It's the first study to show that the problem can be caused by a single gene, said researcher Hans Eiberg.

About 8 per cent of 7-year-olds wet their beds at least three times a week without ever having had control over the problem. This is the pattern scientists studied in children past their seventh birthday.

The gene might be responsible for about half to three-quarters of such cases when the bed-wetting runs in the family, said Dr. Eiberg, a biochemist at the University of Copenhagen's Institute of Medical Biochemistry and Genetics in Denmark.

Bed-wetting disappears without any treatment in about 15 per cent of affected children each year, and only rarely persists into adulthood. Current treatments for children include medications and an alarm device that wakes the child when the bed is wet.

Finding the bed-wetting gene might help scientists devise new treatments and lead to help in matching children to appropriate treatments, Dr. Eiberg said.

He and colleagues report the work in the July issue of the journal Nature Genetics.

The study dealt with persistent bed-wetters, rather than children who had been dry for at least six months but then started to wet the bed again.

Dr. George Kaplan, chief of pediatric urology at the University of California at San Diego, said persistent bed-wetting has long been known to run in families. But the new work is the first he knows of that tried to link it directly to a gene, he said.

"It does demonstrate pretty well that bed-wetting is an inherited trait, at least in some cases," and that it runs in families because of a gene rather than some parental practice, such as the way the child is toilet-trained, he said.

Dr. Eiberg and colleagues studied 11 families with cases of persistent bed-wetting. The pattern of bed-wetting through generations suggested that a single gene was at work, causing the problem in more than 90 per cent of children who inherited it, they said.

They then analysed genetic material from five families. By tracking the inheritance of signposts on chromosomes, the microscopic threads that carry genes, the researchers found evidence for a bed-wetting gene in a particular region of the chromosome known as Number 13.

That evidence appeared in four families, suggesting a different gene is responsible in the fifth, Dr. Eiberg said.

It's not clear what the gene in the four families does to cause bed-wetting, he said in a telephone interview. He estimated it will take five years to find it.

Dr. Kaplan said that when parents bring in a child for the problem he asks about family history of bed-wetting, and the answer is often a relief for the child.

"This is the first time the child ever heard that anybody else in the family ever had this problem, which relieves a lot of guilt on the child's part," he said.

Some mistakes in hospital drug treatment are avoidable

CHICAGO (R) — Nearly one-third of the mistakes committed by doctors and other hospital staff in prescribing and administering drugs to patients could be avoided, according to a study released Tuesday.

Researchers at Brigham And Women's Hospital in Boston found 194 potential and 70 actual cases of "adverse drug events" over a six-month period, and estimated that 28 per cent of the mishaps could have been prevented.

For every 100 nonobstetrical patients admitted, researchers found 6.5 cases in which drugs were either wrongly prescribed or improperly administered, and an additional 5.5 cases where potential errors were caught.

A breakdown of the actual errors showed 1 per cent were fatal to the patient, 12 per cent were life-threatening, 30 per cent were serious and 57 per cent were termed "significant."

"In terms of prevention, another important finding was that leading types of ordering errors — wrong dose, known allergy, wrong frequency, and drug-drug interactions — are potentially preventable by computerised order checking," study author David Bates of the hospital's division of general medicine and primary care wrote in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Most errors occurred in the physician ordering and nurse administration stages, with nearly half the physicians' mistakes caught by other hospital staff. Doctors' errors were blamed on a lack of knowledge about a drug, its potential for interacting with other drugs, or dosing variables.

Based on previous research, Dr. Bates wrote, the cost to hospitals was estimated at $2,000 per mishandled patient, or $3.8 million per year for a 700-bed hospital.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. (a) Hazel (b) Weeping willow (c) Pine
2. 21 miles across at narrowest point, Dover-Calais. First woman swimmer: Gertrude Ederle, (Aug. 6, 1926)
3. To surpass in a quality for which he is noted for — as to be more cruel than cruel Herod.
4. Keeper or owner of a wharf.
5. When workmen have opened it for repairs etc.
6. Into the Atlantic via the Straits of Gibraltar; into the Black Sea via the Dardenelles; the Sea of Marmara and the Bosporous; into the Red Sea via the Suez Canal

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

PUZZLES

Etymological (MOLY=GOAT=LICE)

WEEKEND CROSSWORD NOT RECEIVED

Iraqi regime's hold on power appears undiminished

By Jack Redden
Reuter

BAGHDAD — Five years of crushing economic sanctions have impoverished Iraq but produced no sign of a serious threat to President Saddam Hussein's firm grip on power.

The theory that Iraq's relentlessly falling living standards, rising malnutrition and near total isolation in the world will trigger popular unrest and topple the regime finds few believers in Baghdad.

"I think the opposite," a senior Western diplomat said about the effect of the sanctions." It keeps the people occupied with their daily lives. Here things have fallen so far that people are now engaged in a battle for survival."

Although there are different assessments of the details, the broad economic impact of the sanctions imposed for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 are undeniable.

A U.N. report issued at the end of May said 23 per cent of children under the age of five suffer malnutrition, water treatment has collapsed in much of the country and diseases like malaria and tuberculosis are spreading.

The U.N. calculates that prices of essential food have risen more than 8,500 per cent since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990. The average monthly salary of 3,500 Iraqi dinars (less than $6 at the official exchange rate) is far less than the price of one kg of milk powder or eight cups of coffee at Baghdad's Al Rasheed hotel.

"My forecast is that there will continue to be a gradual deterioration of the living conditions of the population," said Mohammad Zejjari, the Moroccan-born coordinator of the U.N. humanitarian programmes in Iraq.

This misery has not translated into unrest, and not just because the all-pervasive security services are likely to nip trouble in the bud — "if you raise your head, it will be cut off," said one diplomat.

The state ration system, even though cut from 75 per cent to 50 per cent of calory needs last year, prevents the desperation of starvation. Government employees, among the most severely affected group, receive extra allocations of food.

Even after five years without oil exports, virtually its only foreign currency earner, there is no indication the Iraqi government is running out of funds to import essentials like rice, flour and sugar. No one has been able to trace the billions of dollars Iraq apparently had hidden outside its borders and diplomats detect no sign of concern in Baghdad the flow will end.

Recurring reports abroad of anti-government disturbances, often spread by opposition groups in exile, are treated with scepticism by Baghdad's substantial foreign community of diplomats, aid workers and U.N. employees.

Fighting during May in the central Iraqi town of Ramadi, which erupted at the funeral of an air force officer executed for allegedly plotting against the regime, may have resulted in the deaths of a small number of people, Western diplomats said.

But they termed it of little significance for the government and said it probably served as a warning not to cause trouble.

A subsequent battle, involving tanks, that was supposed to have taken place on the edge of Baghdad was apparently not detected by any foreigner in the capital, including U.N. helicopter crew, who were in the air that day.

"According to my best knowledge, since the end of the Gulf war there has not been a serious attempt to overthrow Saddam Hussein," said a veteran diplomat.

"It was just wishful thinking."

Iraq has rising crime problems, and even the introduction last year of extreme punishments such as brandings and amputation of ears and hands has apparently had little deterrent effect.

But foreign experts living in Iraq see little chance of the social deterioration threatening President Saddam, who has been in power officially for 16 years and in practice ran the country even before that.

"There is no direct connection between the sanctions — the suffering of the people — and the future of the regime," said another senior diplomat. "The regime could exist under sanctions for another 10 or 20 years."

Filling the gap between rations and their needs keeps people occupied second jobs have become common. "People are too busy worrying about feeding their family," one Iraqi said of potential unrest.

Anyone expecting an attempt to assassinate President Saddam should remember the futile U.S. efforts to target him in the 1991 Gulf war. In a region of intense security, the Iraqi leader has long been known as the most obsessive.

His activities and whereabouts are cloaked in secrecy. Government officials said he has not given an interview to a foreign journalist since the war. Rolf Ekeus, the U.N. official overseeing destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, has never seen him in four years of visits.

Diplomats suspect that many reported plots over the years were fabricated to justify purges of potential opponents and demonstrate the reach of the government.

"The regime is completely in control," said a foreign resident who has travelled widely in the country. "It's an island that cannot be reached."

U.N. still has a role to play in Mideast

NICOSIA (AFP) — Fifty years after the signing of the United Nations Charter, the U.N. still plays the role of peacekeeper in the turbulent Middle East despite repeated violations of its resolutions by nations in the region.

The Arabs, Israelis and Iranians have rarely respected the charter, signed on June 26, 1945, despite the U.N.'s long history of involvement in the Middle East.

The Arabs were the first to refuse to comply with a U.N. decision, when they rejected U.N. Resolution 181 adopted in November, 1947, which called for the creation of two states — one Jewish and one Arab — in Palestine.

However, since then Israel — the only state to have been created by the U.N. — has flagrantly ignored U.N. resolutions.

The December 1949 resolution on the internationalisation of Jerusalem and Resolution 242 demanding Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in the 1967 war have remained dead letters.

Israel has declared the whole of Jerusalem its "eternal, undivided capital," although it seized the city's eastern sector and annexed it in 1967.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin even said in 1994 that U.N. Resolution 425 calling for an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon "does not exist."

Israel has never been subject to a U.N. embargo, unlike Iraq, which was punished for invading Kuwait in August 1990, or Libya, accused of supporting international "terrorists."

The comprehensive sanctions thave have affected those countries, and the use of armed force against Iraq, were made possible by the end of the cold war in 1989.

Previously, the United States and the former Soviet Union used their right of veto in the Security Council to block each other. Washington systematically supported Israel while Moscow backed the Arabs.

U.N. resolutions have not always been accepted quickly. It took a whole year for Iran and Iraq to accept Resolution 598 calling for a ceasefire in their eight-year war — the bloodiest conflict since World War II, costing a million lives.

States in the Middle East have also blatantly violated the principles of the U.N. Charter.

Protection of human rights and dignity, equality between men and women and between nations, the rejection of war — such principles remain alien to many countries in the region.

In Saudi Arabia and Iran, segregation on religious and sexual grounds is stipulated by law.

In Syria, the authorities brutally crushed a revolt in the northern town of Hama in 1982 at a cost of 20,000 lives, according to Western estimates.

In Israel, Arabs have fewer rights than Jews and U.N. officials on the West Bank have condemned the injustices of Israel's occupation.

Despite such setbacks, the U.N has established itself as a peacekeeper in the Middle East, playing a key role in the region.

It first deployed its forces in the Suez Canal area in November 1956 following the abortive Anglo-French-Israeli military campaign aimed at safeguarding their interests after Egyptian Gamal Abdul Nasser nationalised the canal.

U.N. forces have manned the ceasefire line dividing Israeli and Syrian forces on the Golan Heights since 1974, without any clashes occurring. They have also patrolled the Israeli-Lebanese border since 1978, less successfully, since clashes have continued between Israeli troops and Hizbollah guerrillas.

Meanwhile, U.N. observers have been deployed on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border since the 1991 Gulf war, and they monitored the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq after their war ended in 1988.

On frontier of oil business, battle for wealth and power

By Greg Myre
The Associated Press

ALMATY, Kazakhstan — In the salty, windswept desert of western Kazakhstan, snakes, lizards and camels wander one of the most barren landscapes on Earth.

Temperatures soar to 130 degrees (54.4 Celsius) in summer and plummet to minus 30 (minus 34.4 degs. Celsius) in winter. There's no grass, no trees, no fresh water. And there was no reason for humans to be there — until they struck oil.

"It depends on how you look at it," American oilman Bob Williams says of the harsh terrain. "Some see it as stark beauty, others just see a hellhole."

Oil companies see the next Saudi Arabia.

Since Kazakhstan gained independence in the breakup of the Soviet Union, Americans and Europeans have come in hopes of extracting billions of dollars worth of oil from the Caspian Sea basin, some 1,931 kilometres west of Almaty, the capital. Among the U.S. companies are Chevron, Exxon, Mobil and Amoco.

The scramble has also provoked a heavyweight political battle featuring the governments of the United States, Russia, Kazakhstan, Iran and Turkey.

Neighbouring Russia controls the only oil pipeline out of western Kazakhstan and is using its monopoly to limit exports. A second pipeline is needed somewhere in the region, but all proposals have been dragged down by increasingly bitter wrangling among the rival powers over the route.

The stakes could hardly be higher: The winners will make billions and control the flow of what could be one of the world's largest oil fields in the 21st century. If fully developed, the Caspian fields could change the shape of the oil industry and lessen Western dependence on the Middle East.

The most aggressive oil company has been Chevron, which has formed a joint venture with the Kazakh government to develop the Tengiz oil field on the northeastern coast of the Caspian.

The biggest of several fields in the region, Tengiz has an estimated 6 billion to 9 billion barrels of crude. That makes it one of the 10 largest oil fields in the world and the biggest to come into production since the Alaskan fields in the 1970s.

Since the project began two years ago, Chevron has invested about $1 billion and plans to invest up to $20 billion over 40 years.

"It's a super-giant oil field," said Dale Wooddy, head of operations for the joint venture, Tengizchevroil. "We are on the frontier of the oil patch."

But the pipeline dispute with Russia has limited exports to about 65,000 barrels a day, half of what was hoped for at this point. The Kazakhs alone were exporting almost as much before Chevron arrived.

This year Chevron had planned to invest some $500 million, but slashed that to $50 million because it cannot increase its exports.

"We've essentially put on hold expansion of the Tengiz project," said Mr. Wooddy.

Russia seeks to develop its own oil reserves and says it can take only a limited amount of Kazakh oil through its pipelines. Also, Russia considers Kazakhstan and the Caspian region part of its sphere of influence and wants to maintain political and economic sway over the area.

"I don't rule out that there are political motives here to put Kazakhstan on its knees," Viacheslav Gizzatov, Kazakhstan's deputy foreign minister, said of Russia's policy.

One reason Russia has been so forceful in its war with Muslim separatists in Chechenya is that control of the Caucasus region is essential if Moscow wants to dictate oil export routes from the Caspian.

Everyone agrees on the need for an additional pipeline to handle increased output from the Caspian. Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, two other states on the Caspian shoreline, also have huge oil and gas reserves that they seek to export as well.

"In the decades to come, we believe Kazakhstan and the Caspian region will be one of the world's main sources of oil," William Courtney, the U.S. ambassador to Kazakhstan, said recently. "We believe several pipelines will promote healthy competition in the transport of oil."

But where to build the second pipeline?

A pipeline through Russia to the Black Sea would probably be the most efficient route, but that would let Russia keep full control over the region's oil flow.

A proposed pipeline to Turkey and the Mediterranean would involve crossing the politically volatile Caucasus mountains region.

Laying a pipeline through Iran to the Arabian Gulf would face opposition from the U.S. government, which does not want to see the Iranians benefit from increased oil revenues or control over the flow of oil.

While the talks drag on, Chevron sits on its large pool of oil and waits.

Even at present levels, it is a huge operation with some 4,000 employees in the Tengiz field, including 180 Chevron specialists, mostly Americans.

It is a strange existence, with workers pulling 12-hour shifts, seven days a week. After 28 days of work, they get 28 days off. The Americans fly home, with most having roots either in Texas or near San Francisco, Chevron's headquarters.

In Tengiz, they live in dormitories with scant diversions, save a bar, a pool table, some televisions and occasional softball games. There are no towns or cities nearby, and workers have to rely largely on electronic mail and a fax machine to communicate with their families.

"It's taken a lot of work just to make it liveable year-round," said Mr. Williams, one of the top executives on the Tengiz Chevroil project. "I'm not sure you'll ever be able to call it comfortable."

Centrist bloc takes over Zarqa

(Continued from page 1)

The government categorically rejected the Islamists' claims, expressing regret about continuous statements by IAF leaders in the past few weeks accusing the government of interfering in the municipal elections on behalf of the IAF's opponents.

The new Zarqa council includes three independent members from the Bani Hassan Tribe, which is traditionally the biggest voting bloc in the city, four independent members of Palestinian origin, one Christian member from the left, a leftist who is originally from Karak and an independent candidate who hails from an Irbid family. The bloc did not include a representative of the Circassian or Chechen community in Zarqa. Only one contender had been member of the previous city council.

Mr. Fayad, the new mayor, received 18,893 votes, Mohammad Musa Al Ghweiri, a member of the previous council, received 17,716 votes, Daifallah Al Qilab Al Omush 16,436, Akef Al Ma'aita 15,093, Mohammad Hassan Al Zawahara 15,125, Mustapha Al Majdalawi 14,924, Sultan Mahmoud Mahadin 14,366 votes, Jihad Jarrar 14,288, Yunis Al Dawaimeh 14,056 and Mohammad Al Qussus 12,886.

The highest votes among the Islamic Bloc went to former Mayor Sheikh Yasser Al Omari, who received 8,763 votes.

Speaking to the Jordan Times after the announcement of the results, a member of the National Bloc, Mohammad Al Ghweiri, said the Islamists' rejection of their victory will not influence the bloc's determination to push through with its programme.

The programme has the support of Zarqa residents, he said, questioning the motivations behind the Islamists' 11th hour decision to quit the polls.

"We have a programme and we are ready to implement it," he said.

Zarqa is known to suffer from numerous organisational and infrastructural problems. Its municipal council is one of the few in the Kingdom which is not plagued by debts. The population of the city tangibly increased after many of the returnees from the Gulf settled in it due to its proximity to the capital and the relatively lower cost of living. But the influx of such a huge number of people to the city in the last few years increased demand on the already overburdened infrastructure of Zarqa, aggravating the existing problems of congestion, water and telephone line shortages.

King Hussein returns home

(Continued from page 1)

King's talks with President Saleh today are expected to be Saudi Arabia's approach to improving relations with Jordan, the general status of inter Arab ties and the situation of Iraq.

Also expected to be discussed is the tension between Egypt and Sudan after Cairo accused Khartoum of involvement in an assassination attempt against President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia on June 26.

President Saleh said last month that during a meeting he held with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh earlier in the month the Saudi monarch had indicated that he wanted to improve ties with Jordan. The Riyadh meeting marked a reconciliation between Yemen and Saudi Arabia after a strain caused by the Gulf crisis of 1990-91 when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

President Saleh's visit to Jordan comes amid reports of a planned visit to Saudi Arabia by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti in what is expected to be a major boost to improving relations between Riyadh and Amman.

Jordan and Yemen enjoy excellent relations. King Hussein mediated an accord between southern and northern Yemenis in early 1994, but the agreement fell apart because of fundamentally different approaches by the two leaderships. Subsequently, President Saleh crushed a two-month rebellion by the southerners in July 1994 and maintained the unity of the Republic of Yemen formed in 1990.

"Yemenis will never forget what their Jordanian brethren did for them during the times of crisis they faced," Abdul Karim Iryani, who is now foreign minister of Yemen, told the Jordan Times in late 1994 in a reference to support that Jordan extended to the people of Yemen.

President Saleh, who was in Damascus holding talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Wednesday, began his current Arab tour in Qatar on Tuesday. He will also visit Egypt.

PLO says secret talks already held

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Arafat also told the Egyptian weekly Al Mussawar that he did not oppose a partial Israeli pullback from West Bank towns. He said Israel would withdraw from three towns completely and pull its troops temporarily out of other towns during Palestinian elections.

His statements were similar to a framework agreed on last week by Israeli and PLO leaders. Under that plan, Israeli troops would pull out of several Palestinian towns in the West Bank this fall, to be followed by Palestinian elections. Israel's army would remain in charge of security in rural areas and Jewish settlements but gradually hand over more land over a two-year period.

"The accord will be signed early in August at the White House by me and (Israeli Prime Minister) Yitzhak Rabin," said Mr. Arafat.

He said that under the accord, Israeli troops would withdraw from the West Bank towns of Nablus, Tulkarm and Jenin. Israel would pull back partially from other towns, at least during the elections to choose a council to run the self-rule territories.

The PLO will also urge Israel to pull out of Hebron, where a small community of Jewish settlers lives among the overwhelmingly Palestinian population.

Still unresolved is whether Palestinians living in East Jerusalem will be allowed to vote in the elections.

Mr. Arafat said U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali had proposed that balloting should take place in two U.N. offices in the old quarter of the city. Israel is reluctant to allow voting because it may bolster Palestinian claims to the city.

Palestinian police meanwhile rounded up dozens of activists belonging to the militant Hamas group overnight, sources in the movement said.

One source said the sweep covered all the Gaza Strip. He did not know what triggered it.

There was no immediate comment from the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Dozens of Hamas activists, including top leaders, were arrested last month after a member of the group blew himself up in a failed attack on Israeli troops in Gaza.

Hamas claimed earlier this month that the Palestinian police have shaved off the hair and beards of three of the jailed Hamas leaders, but the police denied the charges.

The source said the PNA was planning to keep the three leaders in jail until their hair and beards grow back.

Traditional leaders sweep local elections

(Continued from page 1)

Middle East region, said the report will be referred to the concerned authorities in the United States as well as in Jordan. She is heading a team from Yemen, Lebanon and Bulgaria.

The team visited Madaba and Zarqa governorates and municipalities during the two-day elections.

On Wednesday, voting resumed in Ruseifeh as well as 13 of the 20 polling districts in Amman since the minimum legally required percentage of 51 was not achieved on Tuesday. The final turnout was still poor, ranging between 33 and 63 per cent.

Only 20 seats of the 40 seats are contested in Amman. The mayor and 20 other members will be appointed by the government.

Leftist parties claimed victory for council members in several municipal councils but no names were released. Five leftist parties contested the elections: the Communist Party, the Democratic Popular Party, the Popular Union Party, the Progressive Baathist Party and the Democratic Front.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Jordanians voted for 231 councils out of the 259 since 28 councils and their mayors were elected last week by acclamation. Official figures showed 789,274 voters had registered to vote.

Results of the elections for the councils' mayorship in the Kingdom's principal cities are as follows:

— Zarqa: Mustafa Fayyad (18,893) — Irbid: Abdul Raouf Tal, (6,578) — Madaba: Mahmuod Abu Fadoura (5,883) — Ajloun: Mohammad Smadi (861) — Aqaba: Riyad Hilou (3,746) — Karak: Ahmad Mahadeen (2,194) — Tafileh: Ahmad Far'aan (2,586) — Salt: Hani Khreisat (2,888) — Mafraq: Atallah Amoush (2,994).

The two women mayors were Iman Futeimat in Khirbet Wahadneh in Ajloun and Hayat Maqboul in Al Hashimiyeh in Ma'an.

Wellington may take Paris to court

(Continued from page 1)

testing was continuing," an Australian government source said, quoting Foreign Ministry advice.

France has withdrawn its recognition of the court.

Greenpeace said the Rainbow Warrior was leaving Mururoa and would reach the Tahitiaft capital of Papeete on July 14, the national holiday that marks the storming of the Bastille prison in the 1989 French Revolution.

Greenpeace said two smaller vessels would remain on the outskirts of the zone, and insisted three protesters, including founder David McTaggad, were still at large near the test site on a small inflatable craft.

"We are taking these statements seriously," French military press officer Pierre Olivier said from Mururoa.

Greenpeace says the trio has sophisticated communications equipment and food supplies to last at least a month.

In Strasbourg, French President Jacques Chirac faced hisses, boos and cries of "Stop the Bomb" day as protestors' outrage over his plans to resume nuclear tests overshadowed a summit with Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Before the talks with Mr. Kohl, Chirac addressed the European union's assembly, but his speech was delayed by jeering deputies waving placards showing mushroom A-bomb clouds.

Mr. Chirac's meeting with Mr. Kohl was their second since the French leader took office in May.

Serbs round up Bosnian Muslims

(Continued from page 1)

peacekeeping in Bosnia and fears Serbs would overrun some of the six other "safe areas."

French Prime Minister Alain Juppe said Paris could not accept the fall of the "safe area" and repeated President Jacques Chirac's offer of French troops and helicopters to help recapture the town if the Security Council so decided.

Mr. Juppe told reporters after Mr. Chirac chaired an inner cabinet meeting attended by the armed fores chief of staff: "We cannot leave Srebrenica with our tails between our legs ... we cannot accept this policy of accomplished facts which would make UNPROFOR completely meaningless.

"The Security Council must decide on both diplomatic and possibly military measures to restore this security zone," the premier said.

However, France received no public support from Britain, its main partner in the recently-created 10,000-man rapid reaction force, and the top U.N. official in ex-Yugoslavia said there would be no attempt to retake Srebrenica.

"I don't think that will be possible," Special U.N. envoy Yashushi Akashi told reporters when asked in Zagreb about the possibility of U.N. military intervention.

French media called the fall of Srebrenica, where French U.N. General Philippe Morillon made a dramatic lone stand against the Serbs in 1993, a humiliation for the United Nations.

The daily Liberation compared it with the French emperor Napoleon's defeat at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

France consulted its allies on possible military action on Wednesday, but officials said it could not use force alone.

"It's not enough to be firm along. We must try to put something together with our partners. The British are thinking about things as we are," one official said.

Two other "safe areas" — Gorazde and Zepa — are in the same eastern region as Srebrenica, an area highly coveted by Serbs.

Overnight, Serbs shelled a second U.N. -protected town, Zepa, but troops did not advance, spokesman Ivanko said. Ninety Ukrainian peacekeepers are in that area.

In Sarajevo, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic demanded the resignation of Mr. Akashi and the restoration of Srebrenica. He also told reporters he did not know if the Bosnian government would agree to extend the U.N. mandate past its November expiration date.

S. Arabia seeks foreign, private capital for minerals

DUBAI (R) — Foreign companies that once flocked to Saudi Arabia in search of oil are now also seeking concessions in the desert kingdom to explore for minerals, Saudi Petroleum and Minerals Minister Hisham Nazer has said.

"International companies are hurrying to the kingdom in search of minerals opportunities and obtaining the necessary concessions to undertake them," Mr. Nazer told a conference in Jeddah on Tuesday on ways to lure foreign and Saudi private sector investment in the kingdom's minerals sector.

Saudi newspapers on Wednesday quoted Mr. Nazer as saying the kingdom was opening up its minerals sector to greater foreign and Saudi private sector participation.

"The door is open to be widened to individuals and companies to invest in this sector, either directly or in participation with experienced foreign companies," he said. "I present an open invitation to participate in this profitable investment."

The Saudi government last week released its new five-year economic development plan, which forecasts growth of about nine per cent in the minerals sector in 1995-2000, he said.

Mr. Nazer said the growth rate was the fastest expected of any sector in the plan and that minerals' total contribution to gross domestic product was seen to reach about four per cent.

The development of the minerals sector is part of the priorities in the plan to diversify the oil-dominated economy an increase non-oil exports.

Mr. Nazer was also quoted as saying the kingdom needed to set up a railway or pipeline to move the minerals from producing areas to the Gulf export terminal of Jubail.

A pipeline would run 115 kilometres and cost $350 million while a 1,169-kilometre rail link would cost $1 billion, he said. He did not say which was likely to be chosen or when.

Mr. Nazer said Saudi companies had made "great strides" in gypsum, granite and cement output and had started to export these products to regional Gulf and international markets.

"Some of primary minerals projects have been tendered to the private sector, including in phosphate, iron, bauxite, zinc and copper. It is expected there will be tenders invited for new minerals projects in the coming years," he said.

He said the kingdom had eight billion tonnes of raw phosphate deposits and its target was to become one of the world's largest exporters of phosphate products.

Mr. Nazer said his ministry, which also oversees the minerals sector, has licensed more than 600 projects related to minerals but he did not say whether the licences were for exploration, development, or setting up firms such as cement.

Mr. Nazer said construction materials alone account for 400 factories and 17 billion riyals ($4.5 billion) in capital.

WTO states support Cuba over U.N. embargo plan

GENEVA (R) — Cuba won support from other members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on Tuesday for a warning that proposed U.S. legislation extending its embargo against Havana would violate the rules of the new body.

Diplomats said the European Union as well as Mexico, Washington's partner in the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA), and Colombia voiced concern over the pending bill in the United States Congress.

A Cuban trade official, M. Marciota, told the WTO General Council his government was raising the issue "in an attempt to prevent this latest violation of the rules of the international trading system from being enacted."

He called for "clear and vigorous statement" from the WTO warning both the U.S. administration and Congress "of the legal monstrosity which enactment of this bill would represent."

The measure, introduced by anti-communist Republican Senator Jesse Helms, would tighten the 35-year-old embargo by banning the import into the United States of sugar, molasses and syrup from countries which import these products from Cuba.

It would also prohibit the sgranting of U.S. entry visas for people who have invested in properties nationalised under the communist administration of President Fidel Castro since it came to power in 1959.

The EU has already told Washington it might take a case to the WTO, launched on Jan. 1 under the new world tade treaty signed last year, to protect its rights if the bill went through.

On Tuesday EU ambassador Jean-Pierre Leng told the General Council, the WTO's ruling body, that Brussels had considerable doubts on whether the measures envisaged by the bill's backers were compatible with the trade watchdog's rules.

The issue came to the WTO as other Latin American countries are increasingly ignoring U.S. policies aimed at isolating the communist island, suffering severe economic hardship following the collapse of its long-time ally, the Soviet Union.

Over the past three or four years, Cuba has built up new trade links with most countries in Latin America and begun a cautious switch to market economics including opening up its industrial sector to foreign investment.

Under the rules of the WTO, and its predecessor the General Agreement on tariffs and Trade, members are allowed to declare trade embargoes if they perceive a threat to their national sovereignty.

The United States has justified its stance against Cuba on these grounds, but many WTO members argue there can be no serious grounds for insisting that Cuba presents such a threat to the United States in the post-cold war period.

Oman to clinch deal for $16b gas project

DUBAI (R) — Oman is on course this year to secure firm supply contracts with Asian power firms that will guarantee the start-up of the country's $8 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) project, a manager at a Oman LNG Company said.

With a final investment decision to be made on the project in the third-quarter of 1996, supply contracts are vital to secure foreign finance for Oman's largest industrial project.

"The shareholders in Oman LNG are sufficiently confident to be able to secure a market (for the LNG)," Ian Cult, marketing manager at Oman LNG said on Wednesday.

Oman LNG aims to begin exports from a 6.8 million tonnes a year capacity LNG plant at Al Ghalilah by the year 2000 but it faces stiff competition from other multi-billion dollar LNG export projects in Qatar and Yemen.

The most advanced supply contract for Oman LNG so far is with the (South) Korean Gas Corp (KGC) which signed a letter of intent at the start of this year for three million tonnes a year of Omani LNG for 25 years with deliveries starting from 2000.

Oman LNG, 51 per cent owned by the Omani government, now hopes to turn this letter of intent into a firm sales and purchase deal.

"We are looking at at least three million tonnes," Mr. Cult said, adding that a supply deal between KGC and Qatar's rival five million tonne a year capacity Rasgas LNG plant did not dent prospects for a firm sales deal with Oman LNG.

"South Korea need one (LNG) train from Rasgas and one from Oman LNG," Mr. Cult said.

Oman LNG has also approached the nine Japanese energy companies that import LNG and it is eyeing possible sales to growing LNG markets in China and Thailand.

Marketing teams from Oman LNG will visit Tokyo and Seoul this month to meet potential customers, another official at the company in Muscat said.

Dollar rises on Yeltsin health

NEW YORK (AP) — The dollar advanced sharply Tuesday, buoyed by fears of Boris Yeltsin's failing health and speculation of a looming interest rate cut in Germany.

The dollar got its initial boost during the European and U.S. trading day with the news that the Russian president had been hospitalised with acute heart trouble.

That called into question Russia's political as well as economic stability and sent investors into dollar-denominated assets, invigorating demand for dollars.

The migration particularly affected the German mark because Germany's economy, the biggest in Europe, is particularly susceptible to sudden shifts in Russia.

"Occasionally, this dollar safe haven roll comes into play. It used to happen more often," said Carol A. Stone, a senior economist at Nomura Securities International in New York.

The dollar retained much of its strength even after Mr. Yeltsin's doctors said later in the day that his heart problems wouldn't require surgery and the Russian leader remained active and in control.

In late New York trading, the dollar was quoted at 87.56 yen, up from 86.93 late Monday. The dollar also was changing hands at 1.4060 German marks, up from 1.3953.

The dollar was further helped by optimism that Germany's Bundesbank might cut interest rates during a regularly scheduled meeting of its policymaking board on Thursday.

The central banks of the United States and Japan eased interest rates last week, giving their German counterpart some leeway to do likewise. Other nations, including France, Denmark and Canada, also have cut their rates recently to stimulate their economies, and Germany has stood alone among the major currencies in not pushing rates downward.

Lower German rates would make marks less attractive in the foreign exchange market and boost demand for dollars.

In one possible sign that the Germans might ease rates, the Bundesbank announced it would hold a news conference after the Thursday meeting. While that doesn't necessarily mean a rate cut was looming, it set the stage for some possibly important news.

Mark Remigio, a vice president at Mitsubishi Bank Ltd. in New York, said a German rate cut would be consistent with efforts by Japan and the United States to strengthen the dollar, which has fallen substantially below its 1994 levels. Last week, the central banks of Japan and the United States intervened in the market, buying dollars to boost their value.

Abu Dhabi projects cost $6b in 3 years

ABU DHABI (R) — Oil-exporting Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates spent 22.6 billion dirhams ($6.19 billion) on development projects in the past three years as part of a five-year plan, an official was quoted on Wednesday as saying.

Mussalam Said Al Qubaysi, head of the Abu Dhabi planning department, told the government daily Al Ittihad the projects in the three years 1992-92 included building three new towns as well as investment in water and electricity projects.

Mr. Qubaysi said future plans in Abu Dhabi, the largest and wealthiest of the seven UAE emirates, include further expansion of water and electricity projects, the upgrading of the Abu Dhabi-Dubai highway, water distribution in the oasis city of Al Ain and the construction of three more new towns.

Gross domestic product grew on average by an annual 6.6 per cent over 20 years to 1994 while the non-oil GDP averaged growth of 10.8 per cent, he said.

Non-oil GDP growth showed that the UAE is making gains in its drive to diversify its oil-driven economy, he said.

A key barometer of the success of development plans was job opportunities, which more than trippled in the 20 years from 122,000 to 410,000, he added.

The department spent 96.6 billion dirhams ($26.46 billion) on electricity and water projects, health services, education, housing and agriculture between 1968 and 1994, he said.

Egypt, EU edge towards trade accord

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Union and Egypt edged towards an economic partnership deal on Tuesday at the end of two days of talks, and pencilled in October for the fourth and possibly final leg of the negotiations, trade sources said.

"They have agreed to meet again in Cairo in October for the fourth round of negotiations. That should be the final round," a European Commission official said.

The sources said progress had been made in a number of areas such ask free movement of industrial goods, agriculture and competition, but a number of issues remained to be cleared up.

In particular, the Egyptians have asked for far more money from the EU to tide them through the transitional period until a Mediterranean-EU free trade area could be set up.

At the last round of talks in Cairo in April the EU offered Egypt billions of dollars in return for eliminating tariff barriers by 2010, but no precise figures were available.

The deal is similar to one already signed but not yet ratified between the EU and Turkey and under negotiation with Morocco and Tunisia.

Egypt has been anxious to move closer to the EU in order to offset possible cuts in the $2.1 billion of aid it receives each year from the United States.

But it faces the catch that much of its agriculture-based economy would have serious difficulties faced with open competition.

The European Union for its part is beginning the process of trying to shore up its southern flank by developing economic and political ties with the non-EU Mediterranean countries.

The 15-nation bloc will hold a giant meeting in Barcelona in November with 12 of these states to kick start the process. But it has stressed that under no circumstances will the talks lead to membership of the EU.

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Kuwait's trade deficit for first quarter is $1.5b

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's trade deficit excluding crude oil exports was 471 million dinars ($1.564 billion) in the first three months of this year, a Planning Ministry report said.

Imports totalled 518 million dinars ($1.72 billion), mostly cars and spare parts from the United States, Japan and Germany, according to the report, published Tuesday in Al Siyassah daily.

Yemeni rial firms against dollar

SANAA (R) — Yemen's rial has gained 18 per cent against the U.S. dollar in one week in the country's free exchange market, money dealers said on Wednesday.

The dollar traded at 110 rials to the dollar on Wednesday from 135 rials a week ago, they said.

The rial had been steadily gaining against the dollar over the past three months after reaching an all-time low of 165 rials to the dollar in April.

One trader said the government appeared to be injecting dollars into the market to bring down the rate in the free market. He did not say why.

Central bank officials declined comment.

But an official Yemeni source attributed the strength of the rial to "political stability in the country which has reflected on the economic situation."

The source said a visit by President Ali Abdullah Saleh to Saudi Arabia and an Arab tour which he started on Tuesday with a visit to the Gulf state of Qatar might have contributed to the rial's strength.

CROSSWORDS NOT RECEIVED

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Private talks with those you like can bring fine results during the daytime. Set out in the evening to some new place where you can find the inspiration and the enthusiasm that you require. Study the future.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You want to make changes in the morning which are not wise, but later you can handle existing conditions much better and more efficiently.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't get dramatic in the morning and later you can handle those who can be of assistance to you on some activities. Be wise.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't have a confrontation with one who is egotistical. You can pursue personal affairs and gain them easily so there is harmony in your life.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't be confrontational with a fellow associate who does things differently from you. Be with the one you love tonight.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your mate may make it difficult for you to see a good friend in the morning, but later you can do so with ease and have a wonderful time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Forget that easy chair and get out in the world of activity. There is much opportunity to get ahead at this time and be very successful.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day for expansion, so don't let dull routines deter you from this. Take care of any physical trouble which you may have.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try not to disagree with a business person and you can make more progress. After a rather difficult day, all is well tonight.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A partner could be difficult in the morning. Apply yourself assiduously. Act promptly on some civic problem which have surfaced.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you try any tricks with a fellow associate, there is sure to be difficulties. You may not feel so well in the morning, but carry on.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You may have a few small problems in the morning but you can quickly solve them. Be thoughtful of your mate and you both will be happy.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) An disagreement at home in the morning should be avoided. Do some entertaining at home in the evening. Avoid a troublesome person.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1995

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be more optimistic and make your life brighter today as you benefit from and enjoy seven especially well aspected planetary conditions that exist throughout the entire day and evening. Go with the flow.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You visualise far better ways of adding to present abundance, so get yourself well organised. The evening present a situation which must be dealt with.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your ideas are fine for advancement, so put them in operation quickly. Show your deep devotion to the one you love and adore.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have inspired ideas which can bring you those benefits you had not counted on but deeply desire for you to have much success.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have secret yearnings which can be gained by proper activity. Put your best foot forward and you can achieve you desires.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Discuss that idea you have with good friends. Entertain them nicely. Much care in driving is advised while on the highway. Be charming to others.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Bring your talents to the attention of the biggest bigwig you know. You can expand where your career is concerned so you can obtain more income.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Plan just how to become part of some new venture. Plan a trip, and know what kind of wardrobe to take with you and be well attired.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Talk over some matter with your mate which can make the path ahead very much easier for both of you. Drive with care while on the highway.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) More cooperation with partners can bring about greater success at this time. Think along more constructive lines of endeavours.

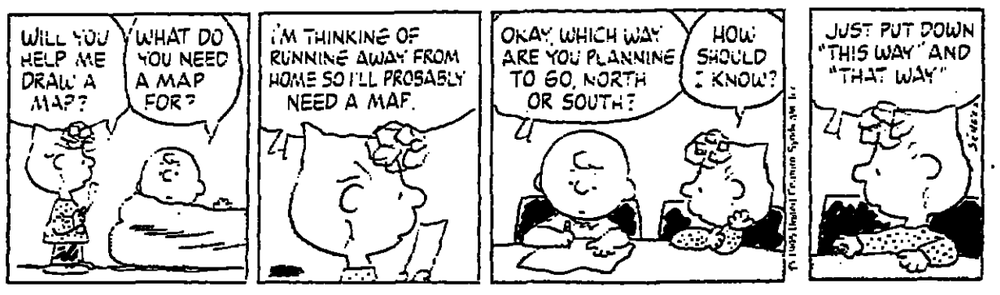
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have fine romantic ideas and can make them work out beautifully. You can strike it rich if you truly apply yourself.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be more willing to listen to ideas of your mate for the days ahead, you will get excellent results. Be wise in your logical thinking.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) If you are interested in enlarging your home or buying a new one, you can use your ideas wisely at this time. Show that you are clever.

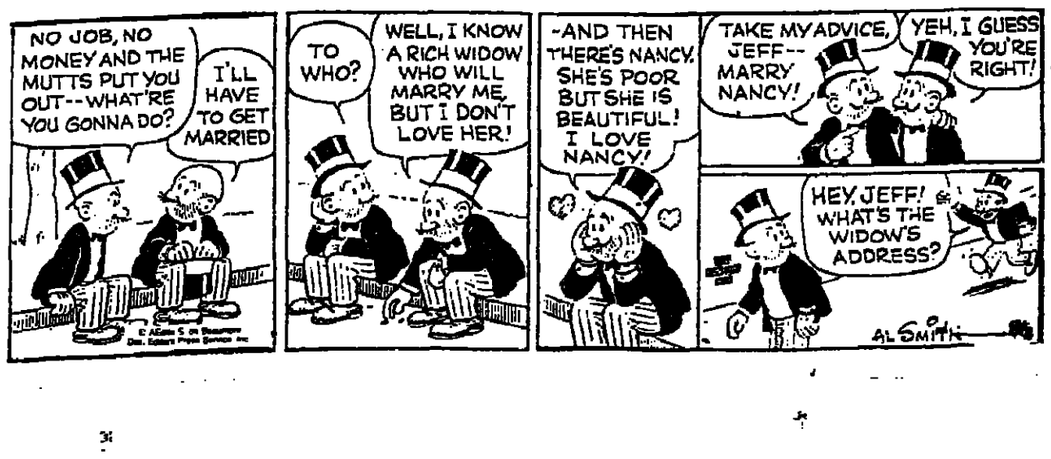
Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

Peanuts



Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

"I keep bringing up the past because our present is too dull to fuss about!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VILEA

ROPIR

LAFBLE

INNEAC

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here : A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles. TROTH TRUTH BEETLE MEMBER
Answer: When a gambler carefully studies the odds he becomes this: — A BETTER BETTOR

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Oil refinery to be established in Aqaba

Rise in demand for oil derivatives in the Kingdom in the past few years coupled with today's production of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company requires the establishment of a new petroleum refinery, according to one study. Aqaba stands as the best candidate city for hosting the second refinery in Jordan which will work alongside the existing one near Zarqa, the study said, noting that Aqaba is close to oil-producing countries as well as possible markets. It stated that the major Jordanian industries, such as phosphate mining, cement, fertilisers and potash, are concentrated in the southern parts of the Kingdom, close to Aqaba. In addition, the study continued, the main electricity generating stations are in the south, meaning the new refinery will be close to facilities consuming large quantities of oil, which will cut the costs of transporting fuel. Furthermore, the new project would provide the needed sulphate products for the local market, particularly for fertiliser industries. The proposed production capacity for the new refinery, as stated by the study, is 140,000 barrels a day to meet the local market's needs of oil derivatives and other material that is not produced by the existing refinery, knowing that the existing refinery produces about 85,000 barrels of oil derivatives a day. It said that a piece of land was allocated in the industrial estate opposite the port area for the proposed project which is expected to be fully exempt form taxes as is the case with other major industries (Al Aswaq).

** Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi said peace with Israel will in no way overshadow Arab economic cooperation, saying Arab countries ought to reconsider the principles governing joint Arab action and cooperation. In a working paper presented at an Arab conference held in Beirut recently, Dr. Nabulsi said the absence of political reform movements in the Arab region constitutes one of the major obstacles facing Arab development schemes. He said the region was for decades haunted by three "fatal elements," identifying them as human rights abuses, the expansion in the cycle of violence and corruption (Al Aswaq)

** The number of passengers transported by the national air carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), increased by 2.4 per cent in the first half of this year compared to the same period in 1994. RJ transported 587,726 passengers during the first six months of this year, compared to 574,052 during the same period in 1994. RJ also transported 31,526 tonnes of goods aboard its planes during the same period, as compared to 25,927 tonnes in the first half of 1994, reflecting an increase of 21.6 per cent (Petra-Al Ra'i).

Qatar bourse seen soon, privatisation later

DUBAI (R) — An official stock market is likely to be set up in Qatar within five months, but the privatisation programme that many expect to follow quickly may still be some way off, bankers in the Gulf Arab oil state said.

"The setting up of the stock market will be very soon, because the subject has been studied ... for a long time. We hope it will be before year-end," Doha Bank private banking unit Manager Abdulla Al Asadi said.

"Government is really pushing towards the private sector. They're enthusiastic to see an active market," he added.

"But we don't expect immediately privatisation — there is still some work to be done," said another banker.

Lastl week the new emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, who ousted his father in a bloodless coup in late June, passed a decree setting up the Doha Securities Market (DSM).

At present the shares of 17 companies are traded informally in Qatar, which has only small oil reserves but has embarked on an ambitious multi-billion dollar scheme to exploit one of the world's largest natural gas fields.

Bankers said it was not clear if foreigners would be allowed to participate in the DSM. "I can't see any future for the exchange unless nationals of other countries are authorised to hold shares," one said, citing the small Qatari population of about 500,000 as likely to limit market activity.

The decree said initially only Qatari financial instruments would be traded on the DSM, but said the cabinet may later allow trade in shares issued in other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and Arab and foreign countries.

The GCC, which also includes Saudi Arabia, Bahrian, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, decided last December that GCC company ownership would be open to investors from all six states. But it gave Qatar and the UAE temporary exemptions because they had yet to establish official stock markets.

Preparations for privatisation in Qatar are not yet evident, bankers said, but talk of potential contenders persists.

Preparations for priatisation in Qatar are not yet evident, bankers said, but talk of of potential contenders persists.

"There are several excellent candidates for privatisation. The primary candidate is Q-Tel (Qatar Telecommunications), which would be the easiest to privatise because it's run fairly independently and is very profitable," a banker said.

But another said the government, faced with a large budget deficit, would be unwise to sell off Q-Tel immediately.

"Q-Tel is a large provider of funds to government, which help finance its deficit. It's one of the cash-richest public firms. I can't see them privatising it at the moment anyway."

The budget deficit in fiscal 1995/6 was officially forecast at 3.5 billion riyals ($961 million) on spending of 12.7 billion riyals ($3.5 billion) and revenue of 9.2 billion ($2.5 billion).

Bankers say the state may resurrect the Qatar Electricity and Water Co after a largely unsuccessful attempt was made in 1992 to privatise the provision of the two basic services.

Bankers say apart from these options, government's share in Qatar National Bank, Gulf Air and the shares of its oil company, Qatar General Petroleum Co., in Qatar Petrochemicals Co. and Qatar Fertiliser Co. are among many that could eventually be sold off.

Oman to build petrochemicals complex

MUSCAT (R) — Oman is to award within three months a long-expected $700 million contract to build a petrochemicals complex in the country, the daily Al Watan newspaper said on Wednesday.

Quoting an unnamed "senior source," the newspaper said that a publicly-traded private sector company would be set up to own the project in which foreign investors would be allowed to participate.

The newspaper said the project had been approved by a ministerial committee under Petroleum and Minerals Minister Said Bin Ahmad Al Shanfari" where all environmental and health aspects of the project were reviewed," the newspaper said.

The newspaper gave no further details and did not name any foreign partner in the project.

But Oman and Borealis A/S Bsxc Cd signed a letter of intent on April 3 to investigate the feasibility of the building the $700 million joint venture petrochemicals complex.

A statement at the time said the proposed venture with the Finnish-Norwegian company would include a gas separation unit, a 260,000 tonnes per year ethylene cracker and two polyethelene units with the same capacity of 260,000 tonnes per year.

It said a polypropylene unit could be added at a later stage using feedstock from the government gas system.

Berlusconi agrees deal with Saudi prince

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Former Premier Silvio Berlusconi has agreed to sell part of his television and advertising holdings to investors headed by a Saudi prince, a report said Tuesday.

Mr. Berlusconi is seeking to break ties with media divisions in his Fininvest Spa company to try to ease conflict-of-interest complaints as he plans a political comeback.

Mr. Berlusconi has recently conducted talks on selling Mediaset, the Fininvest division that comprises three national TV networks and an advertising division.

The Corriere Della Sera newspaper said Mr. Berlusconi would sell 20 per cent to 25 per cent of Mediaset to a group led by Prince Al-Walid Bin Talal Abulaziz, the nephew of Saudi King Fahd. The prince's partners in the deal would be publishers Johann Rupert of South Africa and Leo Kirch of Germany.

The report suggested Mr. Berlusconi may place some of Mediaset shares on the stock market to reduce his stake.

Fininvest officials said they could not confirm the report. The newspaper wrote that the announcement of the deal would be made by the weekend.

Media tycoon Rupert Murdoch also has expressed interest in Mediaset.

But even the proposed deal may not quiet criticism of Mr. Berlusconi's dual roles as a millionaire businessman and political leader.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 12/07/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PIc	1180	255965	218.000	216.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	4138	19351	4.680	4.670
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	150	677	4.510	4.510
BANK OF JORDAN	2200	7576	3.320	3.470
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.	500	660	1.340	1.320
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1000	2550	2.560	2.550
THE HOUSING BANK	9650	78683	8.150	8.150
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	2379	6738	2.820	2.840
JORDAN GULF BANK	3500	4234	1.260	1.240
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	1500	5850	3.900	3.900
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	9633	35968	3.730	3.750
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	30750	34162	1.130	1.100
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	35600	58178	1.580	1.660
BANKS SECTOR	102180	510590	INDEX NUMBER: 179.73 CHANGE : -0.52%	
JERUSALEM INSURANCE	860	3612	4.200	4.200
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	2975	7923	2.680	2.670
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	250	650	2.600	2.600
INSURANCE SECTOR	4085	12185	INDEX NUMBER: 135.40 CHANGE : -0.05%	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	53473	88465	1.680	1.650
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	6200	18030	2.940	2.920
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	3600	7936	2.210	2.210
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	900	1080	1.230	1.200
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	10600	35140	3.310	3.310
SERVICES SECTOR	74773	150650	INDEX NUMBER: 131.97 CHANGE : -0.38%	
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	12000	347280	27.550	26.940
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	13798	50839	3.750	3.700
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	1500	4570	3.070	3.050
THE ARAB POTASH	400	2053	5.170	5.120
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINARY	861	8815	10.300	10.220
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	100	325	3.300	3.250
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	3297	15978	4.890	4.840
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	100	595	5.950	5.950
SPINNING & WEAVING	2000	4040	2.050	2.020
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	357	885	2.520	2.470
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	2600	20670	8.000	7.950
ARAB INVESTMENT & INERNATIONAL TRADE	5750	4428	.790	.770
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	2100	11975	5.740	5.690
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	7400	3817	.520	.510
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	4750	6603	1.390	1.390
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1350	3049	2.310	2.260
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	150	168	1.170	1.120
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	950	1543	1.690	1.610
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	800	1781	2.260	2.220
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	17300	55834	3.200	3.230
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	9200	19555	2.140	2.120
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	3250	6153	1.880	1.890
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	90013	570952	INDEX NUMBER: 129.67 CHANGE : -0.90%	
GRAND TOTAL	-271051	1244376	INDEX NUMBER: 155.12 CHANGE : -0.63%	

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 153505
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET : 172693

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 11/7/95	Tokyo Close Date 12/7/95
Sterling Pound*	1.5885	1.5895**
Deutsche Mark	1.4060	1.4065
Swiss Franc	1.1700	1.1690**
French Franc	4.8820	4.8890**
Japanese Yen	87.54	87.68
European Curreny Unit	1.3180	1.3189**

* USD Per STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 12/7/1995

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.56	5.50	5.43
Sterling Pound	6.43	6.56	6.68	7.00
Deutsche Mark	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.37
Swiss Franc	2.50	2.62	2.75	2.93
French Franc	6.43	6.25	6.10	6.00
Japanese Yen	0.62	0.68	0.62	0.62
European Currency Unit	5.81	5.81	5.87	5.93

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 12/7/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6990
Sterling Pound	1.1062	1.1117
Deutsche Mark	0.4953	0.4978
Swiss Franc	0.5959	0.5989
French Franc	0.1427	0.1434
Japanese Yen*	0.7955	0.7995
Dutch Guilder	0.4425	0.4447
Swedish Krona	******	******
Italian Lira*	0.0429	0.0431
Belgian Franc	******	******

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 12/7/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8350	1.8450
Lebanese Lira*	0.042145	0.043085
Saudi Riyal	0.1855	0.1864
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2950	2.3550
Qatari Riyal	0.1903	0.1915
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2160
Omani Riyal	1.8010	1.8100
UAE Dirham	0.1891	0.1901
Greek Drachma*	0.2785	0.3275
Cypriot Pound	1.4965	1.5005

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. $1.00 costs	1.3512/22	Canadian dollar
	1.4046/56	Deutschemarks
	1.5736/46	Dutch guilders
	1.1690/00	Swiss francs
	28.86/90	Belgian francs
	4.8820/70	French francs
	1618.6/3.6	Italian lire
	87.48/58	Japanese yen
	7.2350/50	Swedish crowns
	6.2400/50	Norwegian crowns
	5.4688/38	Danish crowns
One sterling	$1.5922/32	
One ounce of gold	$385.90/386.20	

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Fraud squad raids Graf's home

BONN (AP) — Tax authorities are investigating Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf and her father, a prosecutor said Wednesday. German newspapers said they are suspected of tax evasion.

Tax investigators searched the posh Graf family villa in southern Germany on May 23, said Mannheim prosecutor Peter Wechsung. That was six days before the start of the french Open, which Graf also won.

Other properties were searched and bank documents were inspected, Wechsung said. He would not provide details.

"I can confirm there is an investigation and that on May 23 there were searches against Stefanie Graf and her father Peter Graf," Wechsung said. Graf's father acts as a business manager.

Cartons of documents were taken from the villa in Bruehl as evidence, said the newspaper Bild Zeitung.

Examination of the seized documents is expected to last several more weeks, another newspaper said.

Graf, 26, has a huge fortune from her tennis career and endorsements. Bild said she is worth more than 100 million marks ($72 million). Unlike some German sports stars, she has not moved to tax havens such as Monaco to avoid Germany's high taxes.

Graf has homes in Florida and New York City. Also among her assets are two homes in Bruehl and a 2 million mark ($1.4 million) penthouse apartment in Heidelberg she just moved into, Bild said.

World No. 1 Steffi Graf

She has earned 22.5 million marks ($16 million) in prize money during her 13-year professional career and tens of millions more in endorsements, Bild said.

German tennis officials said Tuesday that Graf, fresh from her sixth Wimbledon singles title, has pulled out of Germany's Federation Cup semifinal match against Spain later this month because of back problems.

Sampras coach, fighting cancer, enjoyed Wimbledon at home

NEW YORK (R) — Pete Sampras's coach Tim Gullikson, who got a call from Sampras, the first American man to win three consecutive Wimbledon titles, immediately after he left centre court.

"He was really excited," Gullikson said. "I had never heard him so excited. I think he was really relieved. I don't think this Wimbledon was really easy for him. He came through like the champion he is."

Gullikson appreciated hearing from his 23-year-old player so soon after his triumph.

"He just wanted me to be part of it. It was really cool," Gullikson said.

While the two had talked almost daily during the Wimbledon fortnight and had chatted earlier on Tuesday, a face-to-face reunion is still being arranged.

"It will be great to see him, he's a great friend," Gullikson said. "We will probably play a bit of gold and have some fun and then talk about the U.S. Open."

So far, Gullikson feels good about how he has endured the hardships of nearly four months of chemotherapy. "I feel OK. The chemo hasn't really been that bad," he said.

"I think I have weathered it real well. I'm just this tough old Norwegian, a tough old Viking," Gullikson said.

Sampras's victory lifted his spirits, but Gullikson said his basic situation was unchanged.

"Everything really remains the same," he said. "I still have my illness. It makes me happy (that Sampras won), if that helps me, great. It's not like things have changed that much."

Gullikson has about 2½ weeks left in his third 42-day cycle of chemotherapy. According to Gullikson, at the conclusion of this cycle a magnetic imaging resonance (MIR) test will be used to determine if the tumours have shrunk.

If the news is good, Gullikson said, doctors will administer one final major dose of chemotherapy.

"God willing, that will happen," said Gullikson.

But he knows the news might not be so good.

"There's also a good chance that I might have to go through another 42-day chemotherapy session if the tumours *haven't shrunk enough* or if they decide they want to be safe and do one more cycle," Gullikson said.

"So I don't know, myself. I will find out within the next two, three weeks."

Gullikson is cautiously hoping that he will be well enough to join Sampras in New York at the year's last Grand Slam tournament, the U.S. Open starting late next month.

"I want to get there. I miss it."

Becker blasts Agassi and his clothes

LONDON (AP) — Boris Becker has criticised Andre Agassi, his Nike sponsors and the alleged preferential treatment he received at Wimbledon.

Becker, who lost to Pete Sampras in Sunday's Wimbledon final, made the remarks to German reporters following a post-tournament party, British newspapers reported Tuesday.

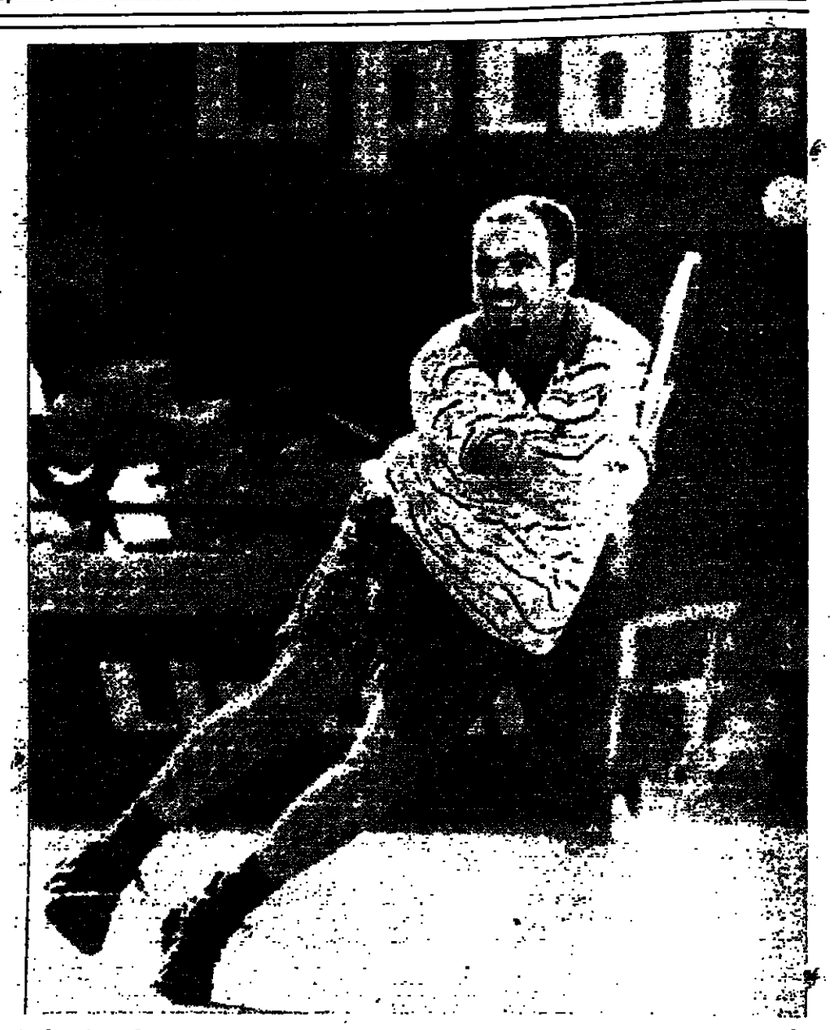
Becker, a three-time Wimbledon champion, complained that he played only once on Centre Court before his semifinal victory over Agassi, while the top-seeded American played five of his six matches there.

"It cannot just be a coincidence that it is always Agassi at 2 p.m. on Centre Court," Becker said. "It would be interesting to see how he played if he was always on court 2 at noon."

Becker alleged that commercial influences were involved.

"I think Nike have something to do with this," he was quoted as saying. "The other companies just can't compete with them. The company puts pressure on the tournaments and money plays a big role. You saw it at the French Open, and I am worried it will happen at the U.S. Open. I fear it will be like playing in a Nike house."

A Wimbledon spokesman said the idea that Nike or any other company or individual could influence the order of play was "preposterous" and pointed out that two-time defending champion Sampras had played only one Centre Court match before the semifinals.



Andre Agassi

"I think it's absurd to suggest that Nike would try to influence what court players play on," Nike spokesman Keith Peters said. "I don't know the tournament organisers manage things.

"I will point out that Agassi is currently ranked No. 1 in the world. It probably makes sense for him to play on Centre Court where more people can see him."

Agassi has a reported 10-year, $100-million contract with Nike. At Wimbledon, he wore an all-white outfit including baggy, knee-length pants and a white bandanna with the Nike logo.

"They do not have enough money to buy me," Becker, who has a contract with rival company Lotto, was quoted as saying. "I wouldn't want my son wearing the things Agassi does."

Becker said Agassi, for all his public appeal, is not popular with the other players.

"Agassi is not someone the players like very much," he said. "He is always on his own and doing his own thing. He doesn't have much in common with us.

"He never opens up to the rest. Perhaps that's one of the secrets of his success. If he were to open up more, perhaps fewer players would fear him."

Becker's negative feelings may stem from the feud between Agassi and his former coach Nick Bollettieri, who now coaches the German.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

U.S. Fed Cup team named

WHITE PLAINS, New York (R) — Fed Cup veterans Lindsay Davenport, Gigi Fernandez and Mary Joe Fernandez and newcomer Chanda Rubin have been to the U.S. team that plays France later this month, captain Billie Jean King announced on Tuesday. The Fed Cup semifinals will take place July 22-23 in Wilmington, North Carolina. Davenport, Gigi Fernandez, and Mary Joe Fernandez have helped the United States to victory in 18 of its past 22 ties. They were the core of the 1994 team that was runner-up to Spain for the Fed Cup championship in Frankfurt, Germany. Rubin, 19, reached the quarter-finals of the French Open, was a finalist in Eastbourne, England, and reached the third round of Wimbledon to raise her rankings to a career-high 19th.

Cowboys sign Haley

DALLAS (R) — Dallas Cowboys star defensive end Charles Haley, who hinted at retirements at the end of last season, has signed a three-year contract extension, the National Football League team announced on Tuesday. The Cowboys said Haley, who was entering the final year of his contract, signed a four-year contract worth $12 million, including a $3 million signing bonus. Haley will count $2 million toward the 1995 salary cap and will be under contract to Dallas through the 1998 season. Haley, who led the Cowboys with 12½ sacks in 1994, has four Super Bowl rings and has played in six of the last seven National Conference championship games and four of the last seven Super Bowls. Haley ranked fourth in the league in sacks last season and earned his fourth Pro Bowl berth. The 31-year-old Haley had said he would retire following a 38-28 loss to the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC Championship game in January.

Cambodia to host international soccer

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodia will host its first international football for more than 20 years when a Chinese side plays three games this month. The visit by the *side from the Chinese city of Shenzen is largely symbolic.* The Cambodian national side and two club teams who will play Shenzen at the Phnom Penh Olympic stadiums on July 18, 22 and 23 are not expected to win. The games are part of Cambodia's attempts to get back into international sport — especially after the International Olympic Committee readmitted Cambodia so it can take part in the Atlanta Games next year. The matches will also be in preparation for the South East Asian Games in Chang Mai, Thailand, in December. Teams from former Soviet-bloc countries visited Cambodia in the mid-1980s during Vietnam's occupation. But Shenzen will be in the first internationally recognised international competition in Cambodia since the Khmer Rouge took over in 1975. The Cambodian national team was then ranked among the best in Southeast Asia. But it has had little success since, losing a friendly in Thailand 8-0 in 1993.

Anfield to stage European play-off

LONDON (R) — Liverpool's Anfield stadium, one of the venues for next year's European Championship finals in England, will stage the last game of the qualifying campaign, tournament director Glen Kirton confirmed on Tuesday. The game, between the two second-placed group qualifiers with the weakest record, will take place on Wednesday, December 13. Host nation England have an automatic place in the finals and they will be joined by the winners of the eight qualifying groups, plus the six second-placed teams with the best record. The two teams who will meet at Anfield will not be known until after the final round of qualifying matches on November 15. "The recent work carried out on the ground makes Anfield one of the world's great football stadiums," Kirton said.

S. African Open drops out of ATP Tour

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African Open tennis championships will drop out of the Association of Tennis Professionals' (ATP) tour next year after Swiss businessman Zeljko Franulovic bought the dates for the tournament from tennis South Africa. Andre Van Heerden of Tennis South Africa said Franulovic had bought the dates from the South African governing body on Tuesday and would stage a tournament in Lausanne next year. The Open was scheduled from April 3-10 this year. "I don't think it's the end of the road but it will require a lot of hard *work to rebuild tennis in this country from here,*" Van Heerden said. "I think tennis South Africa must go back to grass roots, build up its development structures and then try to get tennis back on the road with satellite events. It will be two or three years before they can realistically look at staging the open as an ATP event again."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠764 ♡KQ10953 ♢Q3 ♣A8
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ♡	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	?	

What do you bid now?
A.—With 11 points in high cards, a key filler for partner's diamond suit and a fine six-card suit of your own, the hand is good enough to commit to game. Since partner must have at least two hearts for the no-trump rebid, jump to four hearts.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠7 ♡AJ92 ♢84 ♣AK10765
The bidding has proceeded:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♢	Pass
?			

What action do you take?
A.—You have a very good six-card club suit, but that does not mean you should rebid it immediately. If you have a 4-4 heart fit, that should be your best spot. You might lose your major-suit fit if you rebid any number of clubs, so bid one heart now.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A6 ♡72 ♢J98543 ♣AKQ
The bidding has proceeded:

South	West	North	East
1 ♢	Pass	1 ♡	Pass
2 ♢	Pass	3 ♡	Pass
?			

What action do you take?
A.—Get out your bidding primer if you elected to bid three no trump or pass. Partner's hand is unbalanced, your strength is concentrated in quick tricks and you have at least an eight-card major-suit fit. Raise to four hearts.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK65 ♡KJ5 ♢A8 ♣KJ93
The bidding has proceeded:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♢	Pass
?			

What do you bid now?
A.—Ideally, you would like to probe for a 4-4 spade fit. However, a one-spade rebid might be passed and a jump to two spades suggests an unbalanced hand, which could lead to the wrong contract. We would settle for the value bid of two no trump.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠7 ♡KJ9542 ♢K987 ♣74
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 NT	Pass	?	

What do you bid now?
A.—Partner's no-trump opening guarantees at least an eight-card fit. Since your hand values to some 10 points, you want to be in game and there's just one place you would choose—four hearts. So why not bid it right away?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South with 60 on score you hold:
♠Void ♡AK74 ♢KQJ108 ♣AQ62
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What do you bid now?

A.—A double is out of the question, since partner might try to insist on a spade contract. If you play strong jump overcalls, by all means jump to three diamonds. But most people play preemptive jumps these days, as do we, so we would settle for a two-diamond overcall. Don't worry about missing slam—partner must have a reasonable hand if you are to make 12 tricks.

Major League Standings

American League

EAST

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	39	29	.574	—
Detroit	37	33	.529	3
Baltimore	33	35	.485	6
New York	30	36	.455	8
Toronto	27	40	.403	11½

CENTRAL

Cleveland	46	21	.687	—
Kansas City	33	32	.508	12
Milwaukee	32	35	.478	14
Chicago	28	38	.424	17½
Minnesota	22	46	.324	24½

WEST

California	39	30	.565	—
Texas	39	30	.565	—
Oakland	36	35	.507	4
Seattle	34	35	.493	5

National League

East

Cincinnati	43	25	.632	—
Houston	38	30	.559	5
Chicago	37	32	.534	6½
Pittsburgh	28	37	.431	13½
St. Louis	30	40	.429	14

WEST

Colorado	39	30	.565	—
Los Angeles	34	35	.493	5
San Francisco	33	36	.478	6
San Diego	33	36	.478	6

Results of National League Games

Pittsburgh	6	New York	3
Cincinnati	8	Los Angeles	0
Florida	6	Louis	0
San Diego	9	Houston	2
Colorado	4	Montreal	1
Chicago	7	Philadelphia	6
Atlanta	3	San Francisco	2

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PLAZA
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The Chase
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 8:30, 10:30

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Colombia make subdued return to international game

RIVERA, Uruguay (R) — After the last World Cup, it was hard to believe that Colombia's national soccer team could continue to exist.

Midfielder Gabriel Gomez and Coach Francisco Maturana received death threats hours before a crucial match with the United States, while defender Andres Escobar, who scored an own goal in that game, was shot dead shortly after returning home.

How could anyone play for a team if they are murdered for making mistakes, a shocked world asked.

Striker Faustino Asprilla announced he would never play for his country again after the shooting, while Maturana and captain Carlos Valderrama had already vowed to quit the team.

Yet one year on, Colombia are competing in the Copa America with a side that bears a striking resemblance to th e one that took part — and flopped — at the 1994 World Cup.

Asprilla and Valderrama have both returned, while other stalwarts such as midfielders Fredy Rincon and Leonel Alvarez and defenders Wilmer Cabrera and Alexis Mendoza are also still there.

The coach is Hernan Dario Gomez — assistant to Maturana at the World Cup.

But despite similar faces, Colombia have changed.

There have been none of the brash promises made before the World Cup when, buoyed by a 5-0 win away to Argentina, Colombia arrived in the United States amid claims they were the New Brazil and vowed to set the competition alight with their "fantasy football."

Instead, Colombia are in a subdued mood, promising little and shunning publicity.

"Football is a sport and to lose is normal," Gomez said in an interview.

Colombia were knocked out in the first round of the World Cup after losing to the United States and Gomez knows that being knocked off a pedalstal is a painful experience.

"We got carried away and the public got over-excited. Then we came down with a bump. We thought we were better than Romania when we weren't, although I would say that we are a better team than the U.S.," he said.

Gomez added that the players were also unsettled by having a title contenders label attached to them.

But despite the failure, Gomez said he still believes in the old guard, some of whom have represented Colombia for the best part of a decade.

"They are our best players. It's not easy to replace someone like Carlos (Valderrama). I haven't stopped believing in them just because they lost a couple of games.

"After the World Cup, everyone felt bad. But with time and the players doing well with their clubs, they have thought things over and decided to return."

The death threats have also subsided — though nobody guarantees they will not return — while it has since come to light that Escobar was killed not by an angry soccer fan but because he got into an argument with stranger. In Colombia, such arguments are somethings settled with a gun.

Earlier this month, Humberto Munoz Castro was convicted of murdering Escobar and sentenced to 43 years in prison.

On the field, Colombia still show the same qualities and defects as before.

In a 1-1 draw with Peru and then a 1-0 win over Ecuador, they knocked the ball around with aplomb in midfield and the defenders were adept at playing their way out of trouble.

Even goalkeeper Rene Higuita likes to show off his ball control and dribbling skills.

But it all goes wrong in the last 30 metres as the players try one intricate pass too many and, for all their ball control, Colombia create relatively few clearcut chances.

"Our mentality has always been to play this way; to knock the ball around and find an opening in the middle of the defence and no matter how much you want to change this mentality, it's very difficult," said World Cup goalkeeper Oscar Cordoba.

He added that the 5-0 win over Argentina was one of the rare occasions when Colombia let the opponents do the attacking.

"We waited to attack, we just sat back and we had Asprilla and (Ivan) Valenciano playing on the wings."

Will they ever return to the peaks scaled in Buenos Aires on a cold winter evening two years ago?

"There is a lot of talent in Colombia. Our soccer has a bright future," said Gomez.

Zuelle puts his career back on track

LA PLAGNE, France (R) — Bespectacled Alex Zuelle may have a problem with his sight but there was nothing wrong with his tactical vision as he swept to a glorious alpine win in this year's Tour de France on Tuesday.

The 26-year-old Swiss, who three years ago was being hailed as a future cycling great, seemed to be fast heading down the road followed by many other potential champions who never quite made the top grade.

More noted for his frequent falls, caused mostly by the difficulty of riding in spectacles, than for his victories, Zuelle had started the tour in typical fashion, crashing in the prologue when he had to start in the rain.

A crash had cost Zuelle overall victory in the Tour of Spain two years ago when he had to give way to compatriot Tony Rominger.

Yet the fun-loving Zuelle, who confesses to a taste for parties, beer and siestas, never doubted his huge ability and he finally proved it to the world on Tuesday.

His 100-km breakaway in the Alps, the last 60 ridden on his own in the searing heat, earned him a magnificent first stage win in the tour and even put the apparently invincible Miguel Indurain under severe pressure.

Zuelle, who wore the race leader's yellow jersey for just one brief day two years ago, moved up to second overall and the only rider in any position to challenge Spain's Indurain.

"I lost a lot off time in Sunday's time trial and I was hungry for revenge today," he said afterwards.

"While Indurain is in the race, it will be extremely difficult for me to win. This is the Tour de France, not any old race.

"But the gaps I've opened up on the other favourites like Tony Rominger and Yevgeny Berzin allow me play a waiting game from now on. There's no way Indurain will allow me to attack again.

'Anyway, there's a long way to go till Paris (the race finish on July 23).

Two minutes 27 seconds down on Indurain, Zuelle knows his chances of victory are slim but time is on his side for the future.

Indurain will be 31 during the tour and Rominger is already 34.

Monolo Saiz, director of Zuelle's Spanish once team, said at the start of the season: "Indurain and Rominger have two more years in them. But if Alex can finish in the top five of the tour and win the Vuelta (Tour of Spain), we can say he is the probable successor."

Zuelle, who had a sensational first professional season in 1992 when he soared into the top 10 in the world rankings, continued superbly at the start of 1993 when he won the Paris-Nice stage race.

If his career had dipped since, it is now clearly back on the right track. "I'm a thoroughbred and you can't stop a thoroughbred from racing," he said.

Tour de France

OVERALL STANDINGS:

1.	Indurain	37 hours 18 minutes 20 seconds
2.	Zuelle	2.27 Behind
3.	Riis	5.58
4.	Rominger	6.35
5.	Gotti	6.54
6.	Jalabert	8.14
7.	Mauri	8.17
8.	Tonkov	11.11
9.	Chiappucci	12.32
10.	Fscartin	13.06
11.	Pantani	14.02
12.	Erik Breukink	14.05
13.	Virenque	14.20
14.	Dufaux	14.39
15.	Mariano Rojas	14.50

Argentina defeat Chile, Bolivia edge U.S.

PAYSANDU, Uruguay (AP) — Two-time defending champion Argentina blanked Chile 4-0 Tuesday to qualify for the second round of the Copa America, and Bolivia regained hopes of qualifying by shutting out the United States 1-0.

International stars Gabriel Batistuta, Abel Balbo and Diego Simeone paced Argentina's victory. Argentina, with superb passing in the midfield outplayed Chile at will.

Argentina leads Group C in the first phase of the tourney with six points, followed by Bolivia and the United States with three each and Chile none.

Batistuta caught a pass by Ariel Ortega to open the scoring in the 2nd minute. Five minutes later, Simeone raised it to 2-0 with a violent shot after receiving from Balbo.

The Argentines missed several chances to score, until the early minutes of the second half.

Batistuta scored the third goal in the 51st minute from a pass by defenseman Fernando Caceres who had joined the attack. In the 54th, Balbo raised it to 4-0 from a centre by Astrada.

In the earlier contest, Bolivia's Marco Etcheverry scored the only goal in the 24th minute of a fast, entertaining match in which both team missed many chances to score.

Despite the loss, U.S. coach Steve Sampson said he felt confident his team could get at least a draw against Argentina on Friday.

"We have a pretty fair team, our chances to qualify for the second round are good," Sampson told reporters after the match.

Sampson said he was surprised by "the pressure Bolivia put on during the first half. Afterwards we had six or seven good chances. we were unlucky not to score."

Bolivia had the ball during most of the game but took care to mark striker Eric Wynalda, who scored both goals against Chile.

Etcheverry, known as "devil" for his skillful play, received a pass from Luis Cristaldo and dribbled past Marcelo Balboa to score.

The United States mounted a strong attack in the second half. Its midfielders consistently outstripped the Bolivian defence down the sidelines and passed the ball to centre, but kicks and headers by Balboa and Alexi Lalas narrowly missed the goal.

The Americans' best chance came in the 60th minute when Ernie Stewart barely missed with a header after a pass from Cobi Jones.

"It was sort of a last-ditch effort at the end [illegible] U.S. defender Lalas said. "The whole second half was basically us pounding at them, and to their credit they didn't cave in."

The United States (1-1-0) beat Chile in the opener of the South American championship and will make the second round if it defeats Argentina in its final first-round game Friday night. The Americans still have a mathematical chance with a tie or loss.

Bolivian coach Antonio Lopez Habas said the victory showed "we are still alive and fighting. I think we can beat Chile" on Friday.

Lopez Habas added, "I really have to congratulate the U.S. side, which is very strong on tactics."

Bolivia is now in a position to advance to the next round despite losing its opener to Argentina. The Bolivians (1-1-0) face Chile in their last game of the first round. For Chile to advance, it must defeat Bolivia on Friday by a wide margin.

Among those on hand for both games was Diego Maradona, who was suspended for drug use during the last World Cup and is to begin playing again in September with his former Argentine club Boca Juniors.

The United States and Mexico were the only countries outside South America invited to the 12-nation tournament. Eight teams qualify for the second round, and so far Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil have made the quarterfinals.

World Cup champion Brazil, bidding for their fifth title, scored two late goals Monday night to beat Peru 2-0 and qualify for the second round.

Brazil scored in the 77th minute on a penalty kick by from Zinho. Six minutes later Edmundo took advantage of a rebound off Peruvian goalkeeper Miguel Miranda to score from three yards out.

Argentina fan killed

Argentina, the defending champions, played superb football to qualify for the Copa America quarter-finals on Tuesday but their violent fans tarnished their national reputation in ugly street fighting which left one man dead.

Brazilian soccer player Edmundo (3rd left) gets past the defence of Peruvian players Jose Soto (left), Alfonso Dulanto (2nd left) and Jorge Soto (right) to score the second goal for Brazil in the Copa America Group B match (AFP photop)

COPA AMERICA

Noah falls at 1st hurdle

GSTAAD, Switzerland (AFP) — Yannick Noah, 1983 French Open champion, return to competitive tennis fell at the first hurdle here on Tuesday beaten by fellow Frenchman Cedric Pioline 3-6, 6-7 (7-9).

Noah, 35, the French Davis Cup coach and pop singer was given a wild card entry by the tournament organisers and was unequivocal about this not being a Bjorn Borg style comeback saying: "Let me be clear, I was invited here as I am a crowd pleaser. This is not a comeback."

The dreadlocked Frenchman, who played his last competitive ATP match at Bercy in November 1991, was not embarrassed by his opponent Pioline. Pioline, quarter-finalist at Wimbledon last week, won the first set easily enough. Once Noah, sensed he had a chance in the second he pushed him all the way in a sensational tie-break that revealed the old master had retained all his old tricks.

Yannick Noah

Nomo strikes out three in All-Star debut

ARLINGTON, Texas (AFP) — Hideo Nomo lived up to his superstar billing here on Tuesday, striking out three of six batters in two innings as he became the first Japanese to play in the major league All-Star Game.

The National League won the mid-season exhibition 3-2 as NL batters totalled only three hits — all home runs.

The emphasis for most of the evening was on pitching.

Nomo, whose rapid elevation from major league novelty act to All-Star sensation has mesmerised fans of his Los Angeles Dodgers club and in his native country, struck out American League leadoff hitter Kenny Lofton with a forkball and number three Edgar Martinez on a changeup in the first.

He returned to the National League dugout to exchange high-five salutes with his teammates.

After the second inning, Nomo walked slowly back to the dugout, as if to savour his first All-Star experience a little longer.

Compensation sought for drowned athlete

MADISON, Connecticut (AP) — An advocacy group for the mentally retarded in Nepal is demanding that Special Olympics International compensate the family of an athlete who drowned during a beach outing with his countrymen.

Chuda Mani Tandukar, the president of the Parents Association for the Mentally Retarded in Katmandu, is seeking some accountability in the death of Ramesh Mali.

"The incident which occurred we regard as an act of negligence and irresponsibility from the host as well as the delegation from Nepal," Tandukar said in a statement faxed to the organising committee.

"This has stunned we the parents and the Nepalese people in general. We humbly request the Special Olympics International to look after compensation of that poor family."

Arthur Henick, a spokesman for Special Olympics, said organisers didn't want to comment on the demand of the Parents Association.

A body believed to be that of 21-year-old Mali was found Monday by a strolling camper, four days after he disappeared at Hammonasset Beach State Park., He was last seen in chest-deep water, and was presumed drowned.

The body was taken to the state medical examiner's office for positive identification. The spot where the young Olympian was last seen is about a half mile down the beach from the jetty.

Mali, who was mentally retarded, had arrived in the United States on June 26 to play soccer for his country in the Special Olympics World Games in nearby New Haven.

Mali's family in Nepal said he had never been to the sea before coming to America, and had never learned to swim. He went to the beach with 11 other Nepalese athletes and three adults.

Olympic organisers have maintained that procedures were followed, and emphaised that the trip to the beach was a private outing, not a Special Olympics' activity.

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Jordan needs to launch awareness drive in U.S. for investments — expert

By P.V.Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan remains largely unknown among the American business community and it needs to launch a well-orchestrated and consistent campaign in the United States on the opportunities available in the Kingdom, an American expert in foreign investments said Wednesday.

According to the expert, who has successful record of guiding a campaign in an American state to attract foreign capital, Jordan should concentrate on small- and medium-size firms rather than going to large multinationals.

James Peiffer, director of the Foreign Investment Office of the State of Maryland, was speaking in a Worldnet satellite interview with Jordanian officials and businessmen as part of the programmes organised by the U.S. embassy in Amman in the run-up to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held here in October.

The main topic that the one-hour dialogue between Mr. Peiffer and Jordanian panellists Mohammad Smadi, under-secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Zaid Fariz, president of the Jordan Trade Association and former minister of planning, and Hamdi Tabaa', president of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association, was what could Jordan do to encourage U.S. private sector investments in the Kingdom.

At the outset of the satellite interview, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesely Egan reiterated the Clinton administration's commitment to helping Jordan's economic development and underlined the role of the private sector in the endeavour.

He also pointed out that the panel dialogue, arranged by the United States Information Service, was one of the many events organised by Washington to bring about focus ahead of the MENA on Jordan summit and allow Jordanian businesses to know more about American business thinking and the parameters that influence private sector investment decisions.

Mr. Egan also expressed hope that "in the next few weeks I will have the pleasure of sitting down" with the Jordanian finance minister to sign the documents related to the cancellation of $480 million in Jordan's debts to the U.S. government (the debt cancellation process has cleared several hurdles and was expected to be formalised by mid-July, clearing the way for the signing of the official documents).

The choice of Mr. Peiffer as the American panellist in Tuesday's dialogue was aimed at letting Jordanian officials and businessmen learn firsthand the ways and means through which any country could attract foreign capital.

Maryland is one of the most successful states in the U.S. to attract foreign investment through a campaign that has brought $6 billion in investments and created over 80,000 job opportunities.

Mr. Peiffer acknowledged that the peace treaty that Jordan signed with Israel in October had "improved things dramatically" in terms of American interest in the Middle East, but the Kingdom has to exert a strong effort to transform that interest into investments here.

Within the State of Maryland, "there is very little knowledge of international affairs" among the business community, said Mr. Peiffer. "The information gap between what is available (in Jordan) and what they (Maryland businessmen) know is pretty wide."

Noting that there are more than 15,000 lobbying groups in the U.S. trying to attract American investments to various parts of the world, Mr. Peiffer said Jordan had to invest in an awareness campaign in the U.S.

This could start with trade shows, meetings and continued contacts.

"A rule of the thumb that we have adopted says that you should send at least six messages a year and continue to do so for at least three years' before sufficient interest is aroused in the business community, said Mr. Peiffer.

The U.S. expert acknowledged that the state of peace, coupled with the highly educated Jordanian work force and the moves adopted by the Kingdom towards trade and economic liberalisation were indeed factors that could influence American business decision in the context of investments in the country.

Other factors in favour of Jordan include its strategic location in the region, offering access of other markets, and the Kingdom's own trade and political relations with other countries in the region, he said.

The primary consideration of American firms would be two-fold, he said. The first is whether the proposed site for investments in an industrial enterprise would be whether it is "the most convenient location" for access to other markets. The second would be whether the location was the most cost-effective, in terms of transportation, labour costs, raw materials and taxation.

Israel remain "easily the most recognisable" Middle Eastern country in the U.S. because of the "political relations" between the U.S. and the Jewish state, of the fact that Israel is receives the largest share of American aid and because it has, with American help, managed to develop its economy well, said Mr. Peiffer.

Asked whether Jordan could hope to advance its quest for export-led economic growth through increasing its exports to the U.S., Mr. Peiffer said this could not be a short-term objective that could be achieved since many international and internal factors come into play.

The incentives and facilities offered by the Foreign Investment Office of the State of Maryland to investors include easy-term financing for land, building and equipment directly to the establishment or to the community where the establishment will be located as well as loan guarantees as well as import financing.

However, this is only part of the strategy, he said. Others include consistent help for business in the form of engineering consultations, upgrading skills and technology, and business management counselling.

In addition, the office, which maintains overseas offices in Japan, Belgium and Taiwan, also helps Maryland firms to participate in trade fairs and offer subsidised travel and participation in such events for small companies which might find it otherwise too expensive, he said.

The State of Maryland does not distinguish between local and foreign capital. The state also maintains foreign trade zones — where foreign products could be stored without customs duties — and enterprise zones, where investors could set up businesses and enjoy the advantages of a big corporation without having to have large business volumes.

Jordan should, said Mr. Peiffer, "identify the projects and priorities" and "go after the companies with potential interest in them by inviting them to the MENA summit.

The key to success is to consistently maintain the momentum of the efforts by repeated "messages" to the business community and a well-focused dissemination of information, he emphasised.

Israeli settlers on Wednesday put up a wire grill at the Efrat settlement in the occupied West Bank to expand the settlement (AFP photo)

Settlers expand colony; rabbis urge army to disobey pullback orders

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (AP) — Stepping up a campaign against an Israeli troop withdrawal, hundreds of Jewish settlers blocked West Bank roads Wednesday, scuffled with police and began pouring foundations for a new Jewish neighbourhood.

In a confrontation near the Efrat settlement, protesters staging a sit-in on a major highway were dragged away by police. Forty-two were detained, including several settler leaders.

"Get your hands off me. This is a Jew," one man shouted as police pushed him off the road.

Right-wing activists also rallied at an army roadblock near the West Bank town of Kalkiliya, one of the first to come under Palestinian control this fall. "Stop, border ahead," read one placard carried by the protesters.

The protests came hours after settler leaders mapped out a civil disobedience campaign aimed at blocking a withdrawal of Israeli troops from several West Bank towns. One settler leader said he would shoot at Palestinian policemen on sight, even if his life was not in danger.

Under the emerging Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord, some 15,000 Palestinian police are to take the place of the withdrawing Israeli soldiers.

As the settlers took to the streets, leading rabbis issued a religious ruling that soldiers must defy orders to evacuate West Bank army bases. Thousands of observant Jews serving in the army are likely to follow the rabbis' call.

"The decision that was made today is that it is prohibited according to the Torah to withdraw from army camps and transfer the camps to any other authority," Rabbi Shalom Gold, vice chairman of the rabbinical association which has 1,500 member rabbis in Israel.

Mr. Gold said an army camp was a Jewish settlement, and that uprooting it would violate the direction in the Torah — the first five books of the bible — to "populate the land of Israel."

Wednesday's confrontation began around midnight when settlers moved a trailer home to a hill next to Efrat as part of plans to expand the settlement, located 10 kilometres south of Jerusalem.

When the truck carrying the mobile home arrived at Efrat, a police patrol car blocked its path, said police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen. Settlers stoned the vehicle and tried to overturn it, he said.

The truck moved on and settlers set up the trailer home on Olive Hill. Amid shouts of "the nation of Israel lives," settlers carried chairs and mattresses into the trailer home.

After dawn Wednesday, hundreds of settlers gathered on the highway near Olive Hill and blocked the road. After settlers prayed on the road, police ordered them to disperse. The protesters refused and were dragged off the highway.

About 400 settlers returned to Olive Hill later Wednesday as cement trucks poured the foundation for a building there.

"In a few days the building will be standing," said Shimon Golan, a member of the local council of the Efrat settlement.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told legislators from the opposition Likud bloc in a meeting Wednesday that he would not try to block the construction, Israel Radio said.

Efrat is part of the Gush Etzion settlement bloc whose "annexation" Israel is expected to seek in talks with the PLO on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Such negotiations are to begin by May 1996.

Israeli dart-hit Lebanese boy dies

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — A four-year-old Lebanese boy injured by Israeli anti-personnel shells that killed his two sisters in South Lebanon last week died on Wednesday, hospital officials said.

The boy, Zacharia Bader, died from the effects of steel nails from a "flechette" (dart) shell that pierced his skull on Saturday, they said. He had been unconscious since the attack.

His sisters Jihan, 16, and Silvana, 11, were killed immediately when an Israeli tank fired four of the shells which spray scores of nails of impact at their home in a suburb of the town of Nabatiyeh.

Another brother named Abbas, 10, sister Rabab, 15, a 10-year-old cousin named Ali Hikmat Abbas and a nearby Lebanese army sergeant were slightly wounded by the shells.

They were dining on the balcony of their home beneath a fortified Israeli outpost on a nearby hilltop when the tank blasted the house.

U.N. officials with the United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) say the shells, which are designed to cause maximum injuries, are banned under a 1949 Geneva convention of methods of warfare and they have previously protested to Israel against their use in South Lebanon.

Israeli officials have said the tank targetted the wrong house in Nabatiyeh due to an accident of war. They have not mentioned the fact that it fired banned anti-personnel shells.

On Tuesday guerrillas ambushed an Israeli-backed militia patrol in southeastern Lebanon, but the militia claimed there were no casualties.

An official of Hizbollah said guerrillas hit the South Lebanon Army (SLA) squad on the edge of an Israeli-occupied border enclave at 0215 p.m. (1115 GMT).

After detonating a roadside bomb on the Toumat Niha road in the enclave's eastern sector, the guerrillas raked the patrol with machinegun fire and rockets, the official said.

Column 8

Hugh Grant pleads guilty

LOS ANGELES (R) — British actor Hugh Grant pleaded no contest to a charge of having sex with a Hollywood prostitute and later appeared at the premiere of his new movie with longtime girlfriend Elizabeth Hurley on his arm. Grant and Hurley attended the star-studded showing of Nine Months at a century city movie theatre, walking up the red carpet arm-in-arm. But Grant, smiling nervously, refused to answer questions shouted at him by reporters, while Hurley, the "new face" of Estee Lauder cosmetics, wore a stony expression. Grant's court case was moved forward a week at his request and after accepting the no contest plea, the equivalent of an admission of guilt, the judge fined him $1,180 and placed him on two years' probation. Grant was not present at the hearing. Best known for his starring role as a debonair, stammering Englishman in last-year's romantic comedy Four Weddings And A Funeral, Grant, 34, won worldwide notoriety last month when Los Angeles policemen caught him allegedly receiving oral sex from a Hollywood prostitute in his parked car.

Japan's oldest person dies at 116

TOKYO (R) — Japan's oldest person, Tane Ikai, who believed the secret of a long life was to live "naturally," died Wednesday at the age of 116, a hospital official said. Ikai, who had been in an old people's home since 1972 and then in Hospital in Nagoya, central Japan since 1988, died of kidney failure. "She had been permanently bed-ridden over the past year and could not speak," the official said. Ikai had been the 'oldest Japanese since June 1992. She was born on Jan. 18, 1879, into a farming family in Nagoya. After separating from her husband, she brought up three sons and a daughter by herself. She leaves two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren. Asked once for her advice on living a long life, Ikai said: "You should not insist on saying you want to eat this and that. You should live naturally." The Japanese have the highest life expectancy in the world, with women's average life span at a record high of almost 83 and men's at a record high of 76.57, the Health and Welfare Ministry said last week.

3 held for selling children in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — Police rescued a three-year-old boy who was allegedly sold for $200 to be used as a jockey in camel racing in the Middle East, officials said Tuesday. Two men and a woman allegedly involved in the trade were arrested by police. "We don't know which country the boys are being sent to, but we believe they are first sent to neighbouring India," said Premilla Divakara, police superintendent. The three were apprehended during a police raid on a house in Moratuwa, 20 kilometres south of Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital. "We are looking for the ringleader and the man who sold the child," said Mrs. Divakara. This is the first such case detected in Sri Lanka. Young children from India and Pakistan have been taken illegally to oil-rich Gulf countries where camel racing is a major sport. Young boys are strapped to the posterior of camels. They are found useful because of their light weight.

Man jailed, fined for having too many wives

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — A self-styled Muslim preacher with 10 wives and a pornographic video collection was jailed by a religious court Wednesday for breaching Islamic Law which allow only four wives at a time, a report said. Singaporean Abdul Talib Harun, 35, was sentenced to 25 months in jail and fines totalling 14,000 ringgit ($5,600) in Johore state, on charges that also included preaching Islam without the sanction of state religious authorities, Bernama news agency reported. Abu Talib had said he was "ready to answer to God."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanese sentenced to death for 'collaboration'

BEIRUT (AP) — A military court Tuesday sentenced a Lebanese man to death after convicting him of spying for Israel, judicial sources reported. It was the second death sentence passed by a Lebanese court involving collaboration with Israel since 1949 and the first since Israel occupied a border enclave in South Lebanon in 1985. Seven other Lebanese were sentenced to 15-year prison terms with hard labour, the sources said. Akram Suleiman Soni, 40, was in court when the death sentence was pronounced by the five-man court following a 15-hour session. Mr. Soni, who hails from Rashaya in southeast Lebanon, was found guilty of contacting the Israelis by radio to provide them with information on Lebanese and Palestinian guerrilla strongholds. The information helped the Israelis to launch air raids on "specific targets" in southern Lebanon and the coastal town of Naameh, five kilometres south of Beirut, the sources said. Several Palestinians and Lebanese were killed in the air strikes in 1993 and 1994 on Naameh's hills, where the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command maintains a major base.

Vanunu to stay in solitary confinement

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli former nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu, who is serving 18 years for leaking nuclear secrets, on Tuesday lost an appeal against the regime of solitary confinement imposed on him since his arrest. Mr. Vanunu, through his lawyer Avigdor Feldman appealed on June 27 against the conditions in which he is being held at Ashkelon jail south of Tel Aviv. Judge Tsvi Segal of Beer Sheba court in southern Israel ruled Tuesday that Mr. Vanunu must remain in solitary confinement but he said Vanunu could speak once a month by telephone with his lawyer and close relatives. The barriers separating Mr. Vanunu from his visitors will be abolished and a "reasonable distance" imposed between them, the court ruled. Mr. Vanunu will also be allowed to have a computer in his cell. However, his mail will continue to be censored.

Britain offers to help clear mines in Yemen

SANAA (AP) — Britain has offered to clear thousands of mines and explosives planted during last year's civil war in the country, Britain's ambassador said Wednesday. British Ambassador Douglas Scrafton made the offer Tuesday to Yemen Defence Minister Abdul Malak Al Sayani. It comes following a feasibility study carried out by two British experts in April. The British ambassador told the Associated Press that Yemen's initial response was positive. Yemen's official news agency SABA said General Sayanai expressed "gratitude and appreciation for the British initiative." Yemeni press reports have said that more than 35,000 mines plus other unexploded ordnance need to be removed in the wake of last year's two-month civil war. At least 138 people have been treated in the past six months for injuries from mine explosions, most of them women and children. Most of the mines were planted around southern cities such as Aden in an unsuccessful attempt by the southern forces to block the advance of the northern troops that eventually won the war.

Detainee in Egypt says Sudan training militants

CAIRO (Agencies) — An Egyptian militant who has begun cooperating with Egyptian authorities since his capture was quoted Wednesday as saying he received training in guerrilla warfare and explosives at a special camp in Sudan.

Egypt has long accused Sudan of harbouring radicals active in Egypt, and the statement published in the government-run Al Ahram daily was the latest in an Egyptian campaign to drive home the point.

The government of President Hosni Mubarak has been stressing its displeasure with Sudan since June 26, when Mr. Mubarak escaped an assassination attempt in Ethiopia that he says was orchestrated by Sudanese cleric Hassan Tourabi.

Mr. Tourabi is believed to be the power behind the Islamic government of Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, who took control of Sudan in a coup in 1989.

In Wednesday's interview, Atef Abdul Aal Abdul Azim, described as a radical turned informant, said exile leaders of the Muslim insurgency in Egypt often visited the Sudanese capital Khartoum to consult with government officials.

"The Sudanese play an important role in providing housing, training and shelter," Abdul Azim was quoted as saying. "They provided an 80 feddan farm north of Khartoum for the Jihad members."

The Jihad group, which assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981, and the offshoot Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah are the main radical organisations blamed for the three-year campaign of violence in Egypt.

Their expressed aim is the overthrow of Mr. Mubarak's secular government and installation of strict Islamic rule. More than 700 people have died in the violence.

Abdul Azim said that the farm near Khartoum "is specialised in training in the use of explosives and other advanced military techniques including espionage, stalking personalities ... and car-bombs.

He said that supporters of the Islamic groups also received "sharp shooter and commando training," then were smuggled into Egypt and other Arab countries.

Sudan repeatedly has denied it harbours extremists and has rejected allegations it played a role in the attempt on Mr. Mubarak's life.

Abdul Azim said he spent two months in Pakistan and Afghanistan and eight months in Khartoum before returning to Egypt. A number of the extremists in Egypt allegedly have received training from "Arab Afghans," Muslims who fought in the 1980s in Afghanistan against Russian occupation.

The newspaper said Abdul Azim operated with the Jihad in the Delta area, north of Cairo, but did not say where he is from, the circumstances of his arrest or how long he has been in custody. A photo accompanying the articles shows him to be in his 30s.

Abdul Azim told the newspaper that Ayman Al Zawahri, the leader of Jihad now believed living in Switzerland, visits Khartoum regularly for consultations with Sudanese officials.

Mr. Zawahri also sees Osama Ben Laden, a millionaire who was stripped of his Saudi citizenship last year, Abdul Aziz said. Mr. Ben Laden is alleged to be a confident and financial backer of Mr. Tourabi.

The Sudanese embassy in Cairo said on Wednesday Egyptian officials were harassing its diplomats.

"Some Sudanese envoys in Cairo have been subjected to some harassment and the embassy is now carrying out diplomatic contacts with Egyptian authorities to contain this escalation," press counsellor Suleman Abdul Tawab told Reuters.

FIS accuses Algiers of killing founder in Paris; collapse of talks sparks fear

PARIS (Agencies) — The outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) accused Algeria of killing its co-founder in a Paris mosque while a religious leader appealed to France's Muslims on Wednesday to avoid violence.

The Arab-looking gunmen shot dead Sheikh Abdul Baki Sahraoui, 85, on Tuesday at his Rue Myrha mosque in an area heavily populated by North African immigrants, police said.

They also killed a man who chased them after they had shot the cleric in the head, public prosecutor Patrick Lalande said.

The gunmen were among faithful at a prayer service led by Saharaoui, he said. They stood and opened fire as prayers ended.

Anouar Haddam, a senior FIS leader and its representative in exile in the United States, told Radio France Internationale (RFI) Algeria's military authorities were behind the killing.

"We strongly condemn such a criminal act. Those behind it are known. It is the [illegible] regime in power in Algiers," Mr. Haddam said.

He added that the French government, was responsible for the safety of Algerians in France, including supporters of the Islamic cause.

French media said Saharaoui's name had appeared on a list of FIS leaders condemned to death by the rival Armed Islamic Group (GIA) for advocating a peaceful solution to the civil war tearing Algeria apart.

The killing appeared to be the first political murder among Algerians in France since the 1954-1962 independence struggle, marked by thousands of killings among Algerians on French soil.

French officials and media expressed alarm at the risk of Algeria's bloody civil strife spreading to their country.

Dalil Boubakeur, head of the main Paris mosque, who is backed by both the Algerian and French governments, called on Wednesday for calm among the four million Muslims in France.

"We call on our imams (preachers), on our mosques and on our whole community to exercise the most extreme vigilance and great calm and to not give in to provocation or violence," he said.

Mr. Boubakeur said it was urgent to avoid "an infernal cycle of violence, revenge and repression which would create a climate of hatred in our community, and between our community and French society."

FIS was on the verge of winning Algeria's first multi-party general election when the army intervened to scrap the poll in January 1992. Since then, an estimated 30,000 people have been killed, including about 100 foreigners.

Tuesday's Paris killing occurred on the day when Algeria's presidency said negotiations to persuade the fundamentalists to end violence had failed.

After three months of talks with detained FIS leader Abassi Madani, the military-backed rulers said other leaders in the outlawed movement had effectively sabotaged a deal reached with the FIS chief.

In Algiers, President Liamine Zeroual faced criticism Wednesday following the failure of talks with the FIS to resolve the Algerian crisis.

The president blamed the FIS for the collapse of three months of peace talks saying they had refused a ceasefire.

Mr. Zeroual favours a political solution to the civil war but finds himself in the same deadlock that led to the collapse [illegible] of violence and bloodshed, and then new presidential elections. The vote was rejected by the primary opposition parties.